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Indian cabinet reshuffled

Rajiv retains key ministers

NEW DELHI, Feb 14, (Reuters): Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, quashing speculation about a snap general election, reshuffled his cabinet today.

Rajiv did not switch key ministers but made 16 changes to complete the team most likely to lead his Congress (I) Party into national polls due by December next year.

He also replaced the chief ministers of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh states, Congress strongholds riven with internal party feuding.

Balance

Bindeshwari Dubey, Chief Minister of Bihar state and Motilal Vohra, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh state, resigned late yesterday and were brought into the cabinet only hours later.

Thirteen new ministers were

added to the cabinet in what Rajiv said was a move designed to help balance the representation of various regions and social groups. New ministers were sworn in by President Ramaswamy Venkataraman.

Rajiv speaking to reporters after the new ministers were sworn into office, said the reshuffle did not mean he was calling early elections for Parliament.

"A snap poll is definitely out," United News of India quoted, Rajiv as saying.

It was Rajiv's 10th cabinet reshuffle since he swept to power in an election landslide in December 1984 on a wave of sympathy after the assassination of his mother, Indira Gandhi.

Three Congress wins in state elections since November had persuaded some Rajiv advisers to push for a snap election.

Rajiv said he wanted to fill cabinet vacancies before Parliament re-opened next week.

He expanded his council of ministers from 49 to 60 ministers, 16 of whom have cabinet rank.

He did not switch major portfolios and kept controversial Sikh Buta Singh as Home Minister.

Boost

Congress members said Rajiv appeared to be preparing his team for the 1989 polls. But some of them criticised the changes as cosmetic and too small to boost the party's fortunes substantially.

Rajiv brought former foreign minister Dinesh Singh back into the cabinet as Water Resources Minister — a key post in view of the drought and one which the Prime Minister had hitherto held himself — and Ram Niwas Mirdha, Minister of State for Textiles, was given full cabinet rank.

He sent Communications Minister Arjun Singh to Bhopal



Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi (right) stands with his major cabinet ministers on Saturday during a swearing-in ceremony for new ministers. Ministers standing with Rajiv (from right to left) are: Buta Singh, Shiv Shankar and Vasant Sathia. (Reuters wirephoto)

to replace Madhya Pradesh leader Vohra who became Health and Welfare Minister.

Dubey became Law and Justice Minister.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Har Kishan Lal Bhagat took additional responsibility for Information and Broadcasting, in place of Ajit Panja, whose running of the state-owned radio and television networks has come under much fire.

Environment and Forestry Minister Bhajan Lal was moved

to Agriculture and his Minister of State Z.R. Ansari took over full charge of his former ministry.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Jagdish Tytler, another close Rajiv aide, became Minister of State for Labour with cabinet rank, and Urban Development Minister Mohana Kidwai, the only woman holding cabinet rank, took over his Tourism portfolio.

Two ministers were dropped: Agriculture Minister G.S. Dillon and Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha, Minister of State for Coal Mines. Most of the other changes were swaps involving the existing cabinet and those in non-cabinet ministerial posts.

New governors were also appointed for several states to tone up the administration. Mrs Sinha has been appointed Governor of Kerala. Former Minister Brahmananda Reddy, Governor of Maharashtra Govind Narain Singh Governor of Bihar and former intelligence chief H.N. Bararia as Governor of Haryana.

Oman supports international force for Gulf

MUSCAT, Feb 14, (Reuters): Oman would support deployment of a multinational naval force in the Gulf, including Soviet ships, if it helped make navigation safer, a senior Omani official said today.

But Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah said Muscat opposed an arms embargo against Iran to make it accept a ceasefire in its seven-year war with Iraq.

Alawi said in an interview that Oman wanted to examine details of the Soviet proposals for a multinational force and consult other interested nations.

"But we see that if such an idea could be practical to contribute to the safeguarding of navigation in the Gulf, the idea should be supported," he said.

Pressing

The United States, with which Oman has close ties, has been pressing for months for an arms embargo because of Tehran's refusal to accept a ceasefire ordered by the United Nations.

It wants to stop the Soviets establishing a permanent naval presence in the Gulf and rejects an international force.

Asked whether the Soviets were trying to establish a permanent presence in the Gulf, Alawi replied: "There is nothing (that) can stop the Soviet Union or other nations from having a presence in the Gulf or other international waters."

"In fact, the Soviet Union has maintained a low presence in the Gulf and as long as such a presence comes into the context of peace we should not be worried."

Alawi said the push for an arms embargo was unrealistic.

"We are working hard with the UN efforts to close the gap between the two belligerent states."



Alawi

we are rather sceptical of other ways and tools to achieve that effect.

"There is an ambiguity and confusion in the positions of the Security Council member states. Therefore, we see that the idea of an embargo might not be practical at this time," he said.

He said sanctions and embargoes had not worked in the past and urged concerned states instead to continue encouraging Iran and Iraq to stop fighting, not yielding to "exhaustion or frustration."

Oman, strategically placed at the mouth of the Gulf, is a member of the GCC which has agreed to a Syrian-brokered dialogue with Iran.

The Abu Dhabi newspaper Al Itihad reported yesterday that the Security Council was discussing a Soviet proposal for an international force in the Gulf. It said the plan was being discussed in return for Moscow's agreement to consider sanctions but did not elaborate.

Iran said yesterday that an arms embargo would effectively kill UN peace efforts.

Beat wife, go to jail

MANILA, Feb 14, (Reuters): Wife-beating may become illegal for the first time in the Philippines, with a law under consideration that would impose a year in prison and a 5,000 peso (\$250) fine.

The proposed law being studied by the Senate, would apply to a husband who beats his wife twice in a one-year period.

"While psychiatrists are trying to find a solution, our society can't afford to watch those wives being beaten almost to death by their violent husbands," the daily Globe newspaper quoted him as saying.

Iranians fire at US helicopters

MANAMA, Bahrain, Feb 14, (UPI): Iranian gunners fired on American helicopters over Iranian oil-loading terminals in the southern Gulf on Friday night, forcing the choppers to make a diversion from their route and flee, Tehran radio said today.

A US military official in the Gulf said he was unaware of any encounter between US and Iranian forces in the strategic waterway and expressed doubt about the Iranian report.

The radio quoted an Iranian military spokesman as saying the American Navy helicopters made the "diversion" from their route while flying on a "reconnaissance mission" over the Iranian islands of Abu Musa and Sirri at 9.25 pm (17:55 GMT) on Friday.

It said a convoy of US-escorted tankers refueled with the Stars and Stripes was steaming through the Gulf nearby when the incident occurred.

Tehran Radio did not say whether any of the American helicopters was downed or damaged in the barrage, or what weapons were used to force a diversion.

Iran is known to possess deadly US-made Stinger missiles, apparently obtained from Afghan rebel fighters.

Disturbances spread to Golan Heights

MAJDAL SHAMS, Golan Heights, Feb 14, (Reuters): Druze villagers rioted today against Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in 1967, amid continued Palestinian unrest in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Police used tear gas to disperse hundreds of stone-throwing Druze, members of a secret Islamic offshoot who demonstrate annually on Feb 14, the date when Israeli law was extended to the strategic plateau in 1982.

Several villagers and a police officer were injured during fierce clashes in Majdal Shams, largest of the four Druze villages in the Golan Heights, residents said. Police said 20 Druze were arrested in the village.

Protests

It was the first Druze protest since an Arab uprising began on Dec 9 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, captured from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war. Israelis have killed at least 56 Palestinians in nine weeks.

"We are demonstrating to show the Israelis we don't want to be part of their country. We

are Syrians and we want to go back to Syria," said one of several stone-throwing teenagers in Majdal Shams whose faces were wrapped in keffiyehs — traditional Arab head-dress.

Asked if the protests had any connection with the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, he said:

"Certainly, but the difference is the Palestinians are fighting to win their homeland. We already have ours and it has been taken. We are fighting to be reunited," the youth said.

The village main street was littered with stones and teargas canisters.

Closed

In occupied Jerusalem, cabinet ministers heard reports on police and Army handling of the unrest while the Army said about 100,000 Palestinians remained under curfew in villages and refugee camps, about half each in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The left-right coalition government has been split over a US peace initiative, prompted by the uprising, to convene an international meeting leading to

direct Arab-Israeli talks on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

In the Gaza Strip, protesters set fire to an Israeli bus picking up Arab labourers for work in Israel but no one was injured. All Gaza shopkeepers, heeding a call by the secretive Islamic resistance group, closed their stores.

The Army said more than half the usual 60,000 Gaza workers left for jobs in Israel despite efforts by stone-throwing demonstrators to halt them. Palestinians said the number of workers leaving was closer to five per cent.

The Palestine Press Service in Jerusalem said there were scattered demonstrations after prayers today in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Five men and three women were treated for cuts and bruises at Gaza's Shifa Hospital.

In the West Bank, two brothers, aged four and six, and a cousin, aged 12, were treated at Ramallah Hospital for injuries from rubber bullets fired by troops to disperse a demonstration in Al Amari refugee camp despite a curfew there.

Car bomb kills 3 in Cyprus

LIMASSOL, Feb 14, (AP): Three officers of Yasser Arafat's mainline group in the PLO were killed when their booby-trapped car exploded today.

Police in this southern port city said the bomb went off around noon (1000 GMT), killing the three instantly and destroying the automobile.

State-run Cyprus Radio said the wife of one of the three men, who was standing on a nearby balcony cradling a baby daughter in her arms, was one of those who saw the car blow up in the street below.

PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif, who is in Athens, as part of an effort to charter a ship to Haifa to carry Palestinian deportees on a Ship of Return, accused Israel of being behind the slayings.

Secret

"Israel started this open war after losing the secret war concerning the ship," he said. The PLO has accused Israel of waging a "secret war" to prevent the ship's sailing, but now says the vessel will sail tomorrow.

There was no immediate comment from Israeli officials. The director of the PLO office in the capital Nicosia, Samir Abu Ghazale, identified the victims as Mohammed Sultan, Mohammed Bubeis, also known as Abu Hassan Kassem and Marwan Kayyali.

PLO officials said all three were officers of Arafat's Fatah group and Kayyali was also a member of the PLO's military council. Sultan was in his early 40s, the other two in their late 20s.

Ghazale said Sultan had Lebanese nationality, Bubeis travelled under another name with a North Yemeni passport and Kayyali had a Moroccan passport. He did not have details of the men's precise functions in the PLO.

The blast was not connected with presidential elections being held in the Greek Cypriot sector of this Mediterranean island today.

Goria will withdraw resignation

ROME, Feb 14, (Reuters): Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Goria returns to Parliament this week to seek a new vote of confidence from a house which has humiliated him with a series of embarrassing defeats on vital finance measures this year.

The 44-year-old Christian Democratic leader agreed yesterday to withdraw his resignation, after a request from President Cossiga to end the three-day government crisis.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

○ اومان کی طرف سے بین الاقوامی بحری فوج کی حمایت

○ بھارتی کانینٹ میں روپوشی

○ دو وزیروں کی علیحدگی

○ ڈھاکہ میں ہڑتال

○ ۱۵ مظاہرین زخمی

○ اسرائیلی فوجیوں نے ۳۰ ہونہواؤں کو زندہ دفن کر دیا

○ بھارت میں ملاقاتی تحریکیں

○ پراہم مضمون

○ پوسٹلیات

WEATHER

FAIR weather with light to moderate southeasterly wind and clouds will appear later.

State of sea: slight to moderate

High water: 8.30 am, 9.00 pm

Low water: 3.30 am, 4.30 pm

Sunrise: 6.29 am

Sunset: 5.37 pm

Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 21°C 70°F

Ahmed: 20°C 68°F

Falaka: 20°C 68°F

Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 22°C 72°F

Ahmed: 20°C 68°F

Falaka: 21°C 70°F

Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 11°C 55°F

Ahmed: 14°C 57°F

Falaka: 13°C 55°F

Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 92 per cent

Ahmed: 76 per cent

Falaka: 95 per cent

Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 92 per cent

Ahmed: 93 per cent

Falaka: 95 per cent

Second day of strike in Bangladesh

Employees refuse to join work

DHAKA, Feb 14, (Agencies): Hundreds of government employees, demanding security during opposition strikes, refused to report for work today after a fellow worker died of injuries received in a bomb attack.

The employees demonstrated in front of government offices following the death of one of two workers on a public bus when it was fire-bombed by protesters yesterday during the 23rd national strike called by an opposition coalition demanding the resignation of President Hosain Mohammad Ershad.

The workers demanded that the government either guarantee their safety or give them time off during the nationwide strikes.

The latest two-day strike coincided with the filing of nomination papers for municipal elections to be held March 3 along with parliamentary elections. The opposition coalition has vowed to boycott and obstruct both elections unless Ershad resigns in favour of a neutral caretaker government.

Today's strike brought life in



Have flower, spare the bullets, tells a boy to a policeman during a strike in Dhaka. (Reuters wirephoto)

the capital to a virtual standstill. Employees brought the body of the dead worker to government offices today, demanding that the family of the victim be given compensation and that Home Minister Abdul Matin resign for failing to provide security.

At least 50 people were hurt when rival political groups clashed and police battled stone-throwing protesters during the latest general strike in Bangladesh today.

Arrested

The official BSS news agency said sporadic clashes, linked to Wednesday's rural election campaign in which 152 people died, took place in four districts across the country.

In Dhaka, at least 15 people were hurt when protesters, throwing stones, fought police after police dispersed an anti-government march in an old residential area.

Doctors said two more people died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital today from injuries suffered during the Wednesday violence.

ARAB TIMES

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INTERNATIONAL

Filipino Muslims attack Sulu town

Four die in pre-poll violence

MANILA, Feb 14, (AP): Muslim rebels attacked a town on southern Sulu island where voters are preparing for regional elections, killing four people, the military said today.

Col. Romeo Abandan, head of the Philippine Constabulary on Sulu, said about 50 bandits attacked Maimbung, about 960 kms south of Manila, yesterday. He said three members of the Muslim rebel Moro National Liberation front and one rebel were killed in the fighting.

On Saturday, another group of rebels attacked Kulasi village outside Maimbung, but there were no immediate reports of casualties, he said.

In nearby Luuk, rival political groups exchanged fire Saturday with machine-guns and M-79 rifles, Abandan said, but no one was reported hurt. He also said followers of Luuk mayoralty

candidate Dawang Mundoc fired on a motorboat off adjacent Tulayan island, but did not hit it.

Sulu's 214,000 voters will choose three governors, 18 mayors and 126 members of town councils tomorrow in the final round of regional elections in the Philippines.

Alert
Col. Anthony Elias said five battalions of Marines and Army troops totalling about 4,000 men had joined constabulary and special forces soldiers to prevent violence during voting in the largely Muslim province and MNLF stronghold.

Military sources said the MNLF had promised not to interfere with the balloting. But officials feared trouble would erupt among rival political blocs once vote counting begins late Monday.

"We expect some disturbance

after the voting, which is normal, especially when trends begins to show," Elias told reporters. The province has some 214,000 registered voters.

Most Filipinos chose governors, mayors and other regional officials on Jan 18 in an election that President Corazon Aquino said restored full democracy nearly two years after the ouster of President Ferdinand Marcos' authoritarian administration.

Voting was postponed to various dates in 11 of the nation's 73 provinces because of fears of violence from communist rebels and regional warlords. All except Sulu have held elections.

In Manila, Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos told reporters that his department was studying proposals for new legislation to help the military fight the 24,000-strong communist New People's Army.

Unrwa verifying thumbprints

UN workers to be freed soon

BEIRUT, Feb 14, (AP): The UN Relief and Works Agency said thumbprints alleged to be those of two kidnapped Scandinavian employees provided by their captors were sent today to Stockholm and Oslo for verification.

"We have asked forensic experts to examine what appears to be thumbprints," said Unrwa spokesman Niall Kiely, a day after a short note purportedly from the kidnappers was dropped at the doorsteps of a Western news agency in West Beirut.

The note, which failed to identify the abductors, said the two captives, Swede Jan Stening, 44, and Norwegian William Jorgensen, 58, would be freed within a week if their current interrogation proved their "innocence."

The note carried no specific charges of which the two captives should be innocent, however.

It said the two were abducted for security purposes. They will be interrogated in light of the information in our possession. If their innocence is established they will be set free within a maximum period of one week.

Blame
The two were grabbed by masked gunmen on the outskirts of the southern port city of Sidon on Feb 5. Unrwa has blamed the abduction on Palestinians acting individually without any political motive or links to any organised faction.

Kiely said today Unrwa "remains convinced that inter-Palestinian differences have played a major role in this whole affair."

He said the signatures at the bottom of the note "do resemble those of Stening and Jorgensen. But we are not handwriting experts."

"We're not very impressed

with the note because it's vague, carries no date and gives no indication to who had sent it," Kiely said.

He also said Unrwa "does not understand the reference to 'interrogation,' 'security' and 'innocence' because Stening and Jorgensen are simply innocent employees of a humanitarian organisation."

"We feel the content of the note fits generally with the picture that is emerging about the kidnap matter," Kiely said. He refused to elaborate.

Unrwa has been reducing its foreign staff since the abduction, provoking fears that the agency might suspend its services to 278,000 Palestinians in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the Danish captain of a cargo ship, held captive by Christian militiamen in Lebanon for seven weeks after his vessel was found carrying arms to rival Druze fighters, said today he did not know there were weapons aboard.

"I know nothing about it. It (the cargo) was listed as food-stuff," said Uwe Biel, 44, captain of the freighter Ingaweb.

He spoke to reporters upon arrival in Larnaca port coming from the Lebanese port of Jounieh on an overnight ferry. He was accompanied by seven other sailors and his 15-year-old adopted son Chaminda. They were freed on Saturday.

The others are two Danes, three Poles, a Sri Lankan and a seaman from Trinidad.

"It is well known that arms were found on the ship," said Ole Neustrup, Danish charge d'affaires to Syria, who accompanied the freed from Lebanon after negotiating with their captors, members of the right-wing Lebanese Forces militia.



● A group of women fighters of an anti-Iran Army march near the Iraq-Iran border to mark the anniversary of the killing of Mujahideen leader Masoud Rajavi's former wife. (Reuters wirephoto)

Accident averted on British nuclear sub

LONDON, Feb 14, (AP): A nuclear accident was averted with minutes to spare aboard a British submarine in Scotland last month. The Observer newspaper reported today, but the Ministry of Defence denied there had been a crisis.

No public announcement had been made earlier about the incident.

Early today, a ministry spokesman who wouldn't be identified said: "There was no emergency. There was no possibility of anybody, crew or general public, being subjected to any radiation problems. There was a minor electrical malfunction but no radioactive material was released."

The spokesman said the weekly was incorrect in claiming a nuclear accident was averted by minutes.

The Observer said that on Jan 26 at the nuclear submarine base at Faslane near Glasgow, a fault developed in the primary cooling system of the nuclear reactor power plant on HMS Resolution, the oldest of Britain's four operational nuclear submarines, commissioned in 1967.

Heat
The fault led to heat building up in the reactor's core, threatening a meltdown, and potential disaster was only averted when two of the crew ran to start up a diesel generator to provide alternative power for the cooler, the report said.

It said there was between 11-2 and seven minutes for the crew to take action and one of the two crewmen had to be scrubbed down for 24 hours because he was exposed to some form of radiation.

Racism rising in France

AMSTERDAM, Feb 14, (Reuters): Racism and violence against immigrants has increased sharply in France and is likely to worsen in the future, the Anti-Racism Foundation said in a report today published in the Netherlands.

It blamed right-wing presidential candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen and his National Front Party for fueling hatred and accused other parties of doing little to counter his message.

"Open aggression against foreigners is the order of the day," the report said.

"The political climate for immigrants, refugees, for anyone seen as a foreigner in France has worsened considerably in recent years," said the 84-page report "Racism in France" by the foundation which monitors antisemitism and racism worldwide.

"The climate... is likely to worsen still further," it concluded. Le Pen is campaigning for presidential elections in April on an anti-immigrant platform that calls for "France for the French" and blames a foreign influx for French unemployment.

In an election meeting on Friday night Le Pen called on schools to limit the number of immigrant children in each class so that French pupils were not penalised.

The report said neither right-wing parties nor the left had done enough to curb Le Pen's influence and predicted he will win about nine to 10 per cent of the presidential vote.

Egypt, Turkey sign five agreements

CAIRO, Feb 14, (AP): President Hosni Mubarak today met with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, and the two countries signed five agreements to increase bilateral cooperation.

The official Middle East News Agency said that following the meeting between Mubarak and Ozal, the Egyptian President hosted a lunch for his Turkish guest.

The agency said that earlier today, Ozal and his Egyptian counterpart Atef Sedki signed an agreement which stipulates the formation of a joint committee headed by the two countries' foreign ministers which would meet periodically and discuss bilateral relations.

Four other agreements concerning transportation, consular affairs, visas and cooperation in the fields of television and radio were also signed by Turkish and Egyptian officials, Mena said.

Ozal and Sedki held a round of talks before they signed the agreement. Information Minister Safwat El Sherif told reporters that the talks had centered around problems in the region, including the Palestinian issue and the Iran-Iraq war. Bilateral relations were also discussed.

Rifai meets Assad, as Syria rejects US plan

DAMASCUS, Feb 14, (Agencies): Jordanian Prime Minister Zaid Rifai met with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad today to discuss the recent Middle East tour of US envoy Richard Murphy and brief him on the outcome of King Hussein's European trip, diplomatic sources said.

Rifai flew to Damascus on a previously unannounced trip. He was greeted at the airport by his Syrian counterpart, Mahmoud Al Zoubi, and other officials.

He returns to Amman later in the day.

Diplomatic sources said Rifai would brief Syrian leaders on the results of King Hussein's tour of European capitals.

The Syrians will brief the Jordanian official on Murphy's talks in Syria, said the sources, requesting anonymity. Murphy is an Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs.

The discussions also will touch on the Saturday visit of Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden to Damascus.

Rejection
Meanwhile, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa indicated Syria's disapproval of proposals made by Murphy, who visited Damascus, occupied Jerusalem, and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, earlier this month in an effort to promote peace efforts.

Israeli officials reported that the US plan outlined by Murphy calls for an international conference to launch Arab-Israeli talks by April.

Negotiations would first focus on a temporary scheme to give self-rule to Palestinians on the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, according to the plan.

In a statement made in reply to questions put by Australian correspondents who accompanied Hayden, Al Sharaa said "we don't think that there is an American initiative, in the broad sense of the word."

Al Sharaa said he had the impression that the US administration was trying to find a political solution to the Palestinian problem, rather than provide a comprehensive solution.

"We have clearly stated that we are against these partial solutions because through previous experience, it has been proved that partial solutions have complicated the situation in the region rather than helped in finding a solution for it," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hijack attempt

DAR ES SALAAM, Feb 14, (Reuters): The pilot of an Air Tanzania plane fooled four young hijackers yesterday by returning to the Tanzanian capital instead of flying to Addis Ababa as they demanded.

Soon after take-off on a one-hour flight to Kilimanjaro, northern Tanzania, the youths ordered the pilot of the Boeing 737 to fly to Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, and then on to London, the government-owned radio said.

Flights cancelled

ROME, Feb 14, (Reuters): A 17-hour strike by ground staff at Rome's Fiumicino airport caused cancellations and long delays of flights today in the latest of an eight-month-long protest against pay restraints.

Geoffrey Howe

LONDON, Feb 14, (AP): British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe said today that arms control, a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and human rights will be the chief issues he will raise in his talks with Soviet leaders this week.

Gemayel visit

SANAA, North Yemen, Feb 14, (AP): Lebanese President Amin Gemayel left today after a two-day official visit to North Yemen at the invitation of its leader, Ali Abdullah Saleh.

China admits

BEIJING, Feb 14, (Reuters): China has admitted for the first time that police opened fire while under siege from Tibetans demonstrating in Lhasa against Chinese rule last October. At least three people died in the disturbances.

Files missing

WEST BERLIN, Feb 14, (Reuters): Up to 80,000 documents are missing from US-run archives that house millions of Nazi files and they could have been used to blackmail people, the Berliner Morgenpost newspaper said today.

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دليلك

Complaint boxes found empty most of the time

PUBLIC relations directors at ministries and other government establishments said that complaint and suggestion boxes at resident service offices were empty most of the time.

One box, for instance, had only two letters in a whole year. Officials said that the resident service offices facilitated the way for residents to meet the officer in charge personally instead of writing a letter of complaint or suggestion, and then waiting for an answer.

They said this did not mean that complaint boxes should be removed.

The complaints found in the boxes were studied and then given to the concerned department. They added that some complaints were about services or directed against a specific official.

Necessary

The director of the public relations office at the Communications Ministry, Jawad Hassan Saleh, said that in the past the complaints and suggestion boxes were important and necessary to transfer the complaints and suggestions of the public to the concerned departments.

Now there were several other

ways of communications, and complaints boxes were used less and had a limited role. The boxes contained an average of one or two letters monthly.

He pointed out that people these days preferred a faster method of contact, such as using the telephone or meeting the officer in charge personally.

The director of the awareness centre at Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) said most complaints were caused by misunderstandings between passengers and flight attendants. Other complaints concerned departure times and services.

Questionnaires

She said that complaint boxes were installed inside KAC aircraft, and all complaints were placed on record and then used for general studies.

She said that KAC conducted several questionnaires at different times of the year. These were distributed to passengers and covered everything concerning service standards and their effect on passengers.

She said passengers who proved they had been unfairly treated were compensated or sent a letter of apology.

KAC had a special committee

for services development and it urged passengers to record their opinions and suggestions at all times.

The director of the Health Minister's Office, Dr Abdul Latif Al Zayed, said the letters from complaints boxes were generally passed to the minister or under-secretary and then transferred to the concerned departments. He said complaints were dealt with according to a system of priorities.

Relations

He said the ministry had good relations with the public and was concerned about solving all complaints.

The director of the resident service office at the Electricity and Water Ministry, Abdul Latif Al Khader, said the complaint boxes were meant specially for those who found it difficult to come to the ministry. Letters were collected from complaint boxes and then sent to the resident service office for attention. This was done within 24 hours.

He said the ministry received about two letters each year, and he urged residents to take advantage of the boxes in different areas.



Kuwait's Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister, Khalid Al Jassar, yesterday met PLO leader Yasser Arafat (left).

Palestinian Week

THE law society at Kuwait University has invited all societies at the university to take part in the Week to be organised to support the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

The chairman of the society, Osama Al Abdul Jalil, said the Week will begin on Feb 20, and all societies had responded positively to the invitation.

He told a local newspaper that the Palestinian uprising deserved every material and moral support.

He said the activities of the Week will include a mobile photographs gallery about the Palestinian uprising which depicts the experiences of the Palestinians under the Israeli occupation, lectures urging students to give donations to the

Palestinian people and the uprising, a charity dish and a donation campaign.

He said the society's new club will be opened during the Week, and the dean of the law faculty, Dr Bader Al Yacoub, will be honoured for his role in realising the club.

Meanwhile, in accordance with instructions of the Cabinet, the Kuwait Stock Exchange Market and Zakat House's employees yesterday decided to donate one day of their pay to support the current uprising in the occupied territories.

The Council of Ministers last month endorsed a decision calling on employees of all sectors to back the steadfastness of their brethren in the occupied territories.

Arafat arrives in Kuwait

THE chairman of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Yasser Arafat arrived here on an official visit to the country.

Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, Khalid Al Jassar, and a number of senior officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were at the airport for Arafat's arrival.

Arafat told Kuna upon arrival that he will meet with HH the Amir to brief him on developments of the uprising and consult with him in his capacity as current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference on latest developments in the Arab and Muslim worlds.

Asked about the 'Ship of Return', Arafat said the ship will begin its voyage in the next 36 hours.

The ship's trip has been delayed twice so far because of Israeli and American conspiracies to abort its peace mission.

Awadi supports uprising

DR Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, Kuwait's Planning Minister and the Executive Chairman of the Council of Arab Health Ministers, expressed his support for the popular uprising against Israeli occupation troops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dr Awadi told reporters on Saturday that the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Health Ministers had called on health ministers to support Arab hospitals in occupied Palestine with donations of money and supplies.

He added that the bureau had already allocated \$100,000 from the Arab Fund for Health Development to support hospitals in Palestine.

The minister condemned the ruthless acts of the Israelis against Muslim brothers in Palestine and called on all Arabs to generously support the uprising to ensure the end of the occupation.

Teachers asked to vacate villas

THE former site of the Shuwaikh secondary school now accommodates the art college, the law college, the allied medical sciences college and department offices of Kuwait University.

The area also has about 45 villas occupied by teachers.

These teachers have received notices from the university administration asking them to vacate the villas by June 1, a local newspaper said yesterday. It said the university intends to replace the villas by administration offices, stores or parking lots.

The residents of these villas presented the general secretary of the university with a petition for reconsidering the matter. In the petition they said some of them had been living in their villas since 1974. They believed the university had no right to ask for vacating of the villas in order to replace them with offices. They pointed out that the villas represented a part of the

Kuwaiti tradition and heritage which was linked to the first secondary school built in Kuwait.

Dr Othman Al Dosouki said that all the residents refused to comply with the order. He said that some villas which had been vacated a long time ago, had not been used by the university so far.

Graduation ceremony

DR Rasha Al Sabah, Kuwait University's Vice-Rector for Information and Social Services, said preparations for the annual graduation ceremony had been completed and would be held under the patronage of HH the Amir on Wednesday morning.

She said that about 560 graduates would receive Masters of Arts degrees in addition to 470 receiving other degrees. She added that the university had retained the current percentage for passing courses because of a number of considerations involving students and parents. Dr Sabah said security

and the area had become a wasteland. He said it was not clear so far what the university's intentions were.

He said that replacing these villas with administrative offices would cost a lot of money, and the university should consider restoring the area and making it a model one.

Child killed

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD child was killed in one of 25 accidents which took place in Kuwait on Saturday. Eight accidents occurred in Jahra, where the child was killed, four in the capital, two in Hawalli and eleven in Ahmedi.

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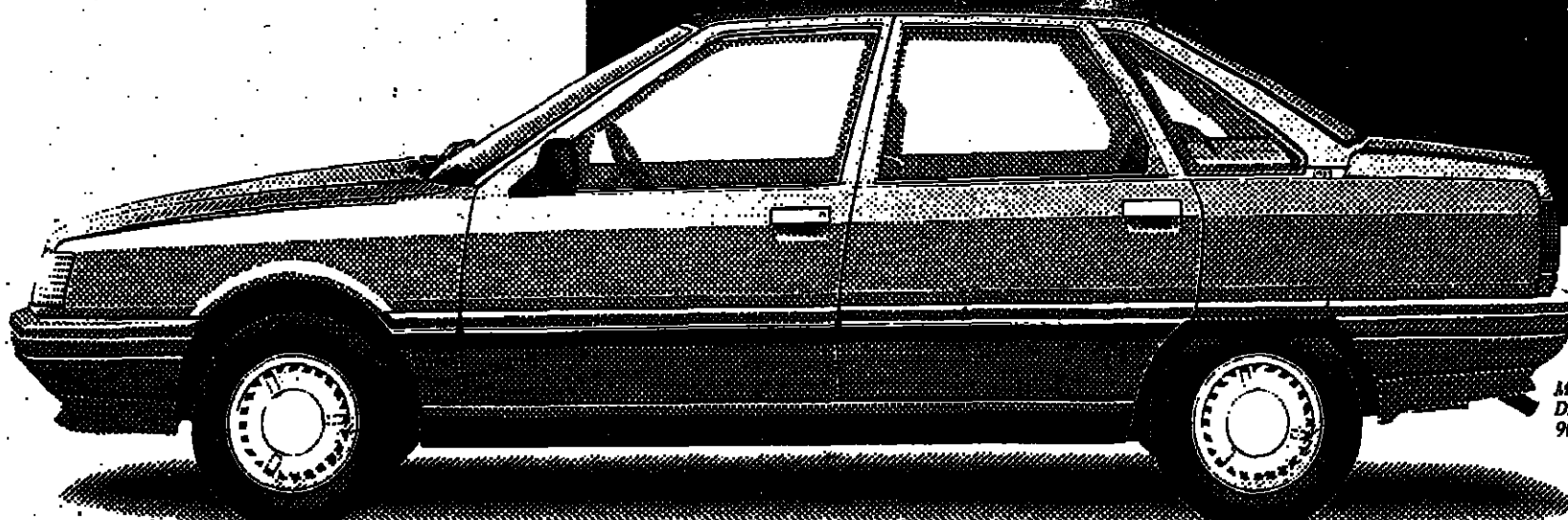
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Cabinet reviews outcome of Sheikh Salem's Cairo visit

THE Kuwait Cabinet yesterday reviewed the results of a visit by Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah to the Arab Republic of Egypt during which he had talks with top Egyptian officials, according to a government spokesman.

The spokesman, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashid told reporters that the Interior Minister briefed the cabinet on the outcome of his fruitful exchanges with Egyptian officials in Cairo covering Arab developments and bilateral issues.

Sheikh Salem reported to the Council of Ministers on contents of the message which he delivered to President Hosni Mubarak from HH the Amir during his five-day stay in Cairo to attend a scientific symposium on contemporary security affairs.

The cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, also took note of Sheikh Salem's talks with a number of Arab interior ministers on the periphery of the symposium focussing on a wide-range of security issues.

Investment

The council then listened to a briefing from Finance Minister Jassem Mohammed Al Khorafi on the 44th session of Arab Economic and Social Council which met recently in Tunis and evaluated the performance of Arab organisations, and the need for overhauling them to improve their activities.

Khorafi also reported to the council on the results of his visit to London where he had talks

with officials at Kuwait Investment Office on the strength of Kuwaiti investments in the wake of the last October crash in international stock exchanges.

Proceeding, the cabinet then heard from the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Khalid Al Jassar, on last week's fourth meeting in Jeddah of the international Islamic fikh forum which decided to reactivate the principle of *ijtihad* (interpretation) to update Islamic laws and regulations.

Afterwards the cabinet was informed by the ministers of planning and public health about the recommendations adopted at the second Kuwait International Aids Conference held last week to increase public awareness of the dangers of the killer disease. The council also took note of the results of last week's talks

between the Kuwaiti Education and acting Higher Education Minister, Anwar Al Nouri and the visiting Egyptian Minister of State for Scientific Research, Adel Abdulhamid.

Uprising

The two countries signed a memorandum of understanding encouraging scientific and technological cooperation and promoting educational coordination.

Moving to Arab affairs, the cabinet reviewed most recent developments in occupied Palestine in light of the rising Palestinian revolt against Israeli atrocities and occupation.

The government also appraised the latest regional and international contacts to end the Iran-Iraq war, and finally discussed a number of home affairs.



● The Governor of Jahra Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Nasser Al Sabah (right) chats with the Romanian Ambassador to Kuwait Gheorghe Serbanescu during his visit to the governor's office yesterday.

Iranian frigate questions merchant ship near Abu Musa

DUBAI, Feb 14, (Agencies): Prowling Iranian frigates kept shippers' fears of new Gulf attacks high this weekend after a US warship warned off a raiding Iraqi missile plane.

An Iranian frigate questioned a merchant ship near the Revolutionary Guard base of Abu Musa island in the southern Gulf early today, regional shipping sources said.

Several other ships in the central and southern Gulf were heard on radio being interrogated on Saturday evening.

Crippled

One of two Soviet-made C-601 missiles launched from an Iraqi Badger bomber winged past the US destroyer Chandler eight miles away as it escorted four reflagged tankers through the Gulf on Friday night.

The Chandler had fired flares from its five-inch guns, forcing the Russian-built warplane to veer away.

The crippled Danish supertanker Kate Maersk, towed by tugboats, after apparently being hit in error by an Iraqi missile the previous day.

The missile punched a huge hole in the superstructure and exploded inside, killing a seaman and seriously wounding three others, the sources said.

A special defence analyst on board the vessel escaped unscathed as the missile demolished the ship's radio room a few feet away from him and damaged the engine room and crew quarters, they added.

Shipping experts said the Kate Maersk appeared to have been struck in error by an Exocet from

an Iraqi warplane seeking an Iranian target.

Baghdad said its warplanes hit two big ships near Iran's Sirri island terminal late on Friday night but shipping sources have not so far identified them.

Marine and oil operators, shocked by the deaths of 15 seamen in Iraqi raids and by 13 Iranian attacks on other vessels this year, said they now consider the two warring states equally dangerous in the waterway.

A US naval officer dubbed the dual threat to Western warships "Iranian terrorism and Iraqi terrorism."

He said Iraqi pilots frequently headed for US fleet warships and had to be warned off.

The Soviet Union has proposed an international naval force to replace around 80 warships in and around the Gulf.

5,358 received scholarships for higher studies

SAUD AL TALAB, the Assistant Undersecretary of Kuwait's Civil Service Commission for Scholarships and Computer Affairs, said 5,358 employees had, at the end of last year, received scholarships for higher studies. He added that 9,792 had thus far been granted study leave and 11,670 had attended training courses abroad.

He added that the commission gave special consideration to study leave, scholarships and training courses because of their importance in developing the administrative sector of the country.

Al Talab explained that the computer centre at the Civil Service Commission had been established in 1977 and had since applied computer systems for public employee records in all ministries and government establishments which includes a salary and wage system.

The centre collects and provides information to authorities about civil servants in the public sector, adding that this information was available in only 15 seconds through terminals connected to the Ministry of Planning's Computer Centre.

AIDS test

RIYADH, Feb 14, (Kuna): Foreign workers arriving in Saudi Arabia will have to undergo AIDS tests and repeat them after three months, a senior health official said in a statement published today.

Health Assistant Undersecretary Jalal Ashi told Al-Jazirah newspaper the screening is part of a government plan to tighten preventive measures against the fatal disease.

The plan also includes a press campaign to educate the public about the causes, perils and prevention of the ailment, the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Saudis travelling abroad for treatment will also be alerted to the possibility that they would contract the disease through receiving contaminated blood or organs from AIDS carrier donors, Ashi said.

Kuwait envoy

KUWAITI Ambassador to the UAE, Mohammed Saud Al-Lam, met yesterday with Deputy Premier and Crown Prince of Dubai Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

The meeting centred on the latest developments in the region and other bilateral issues.



● Kuwait's Communications Minister, Abdullah Al Sharhan, yesterday opened the Info 88 Exhibition at the International Fairground at Meshrif. After the opening, Al Sharhan toured the exhibition. He (second right) is seen looking at one of the pavilions.

Hawkers face fines

MUSCAT, Feb 14, (AP): Hawkers in the Omani capital city who sell contaminated food, mostly to children, now face on-the-spot fines of up to 300 rials (\$775) if they violate local health regulations, the state-owned daily Observer reported today.

The paper said that the manual of requirements for business is published in Arabic which uneducated hawkers, most of whom are from the Indian subcontinent, do not understand.

"Consequently, they conduct business in the manner they would in their own countries," the paper said.

60,798 work permits issued last year

KUWAIT'S Social Affairs and Labour Ministry issued 60,798 work permits last year, according to the assistant undersecretary for labour affairs, Shihnan Al Thamer.

He said that the work permits represented job opportunities for 48,807 labourers. He said that 33,588 labourers left Kuwait last year, and this brought the net balance to 15,219 labourers.

He said that 5,250 labourers, mostly Yemenis, came for simple handicrafts, and this was in line with the ministry's policy to give facilities for this type of profession.

He said his department cooperated with both employers and workers, adding that only nine per cent of applications were rejected.

Meanwhile, the Social Affairs and Labour Minister, Sheikh Nasser Al Ahmed, denied any obstacles to accepting special applications for some nationalities as long as the requirements were met.

He added during a press conference that several measures will be taken to facilitate transactions.

Directory of Arab hospitals

ABDUL Rahman Al Awadi, Kuwait's Planning Minister and Secretary-General of the Arab Centre for Health Documents and Publications, said the National Centre for Computers and Microfilm at the Planning Ministry was preparing to set up an automated information base on Arab hospitals, treatment centres and health units required for the first Arabic and English directory entitled Arab Hospitals and Treatment Centres Directory in Arab Countries.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti daily, Dr Al Awadi said the information system depended mainly on data provided to the centre by Arab health ministers. He explained that they had received more than 1,500 entries, including 42 from Kuwait, with each entry giving information regarding the address of the hospital or treatment centre, the cable address, telex number and a statement as to whether the hospital or treatment centre was privately or government owned.

Dr Al Awadi said the directory would also include information about doctors, pharmacists, nurses, the number of beds per hospital and the allied medical professions at each hospital or treatment centre.

24 countries attend road conference

RIYADH, Feb 14, (Kuna): The third international conference on roads opened here last night in the presence of 1500 delegates from 24 Middle Eastern countries.

The delegates will table and discuss 76 research papers on various activities related to road construction, including planning, designing, construction and maintenance, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Bin Abdul Aziz opened the conference, on behalf of King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, asserting importance of such meetings in exchanging expertise.

He noted that presence of various world experts in the assembly targets exchanging opinions and latest technological advancement.

NHA completed 25,000 houses

ALI Abdul Karim Al Fouzan, the Assistant Director General for Design, Planning and Construction at Kuwait's National Housing Authority, said, the NHA had completed half of its third Five Year Plan with the construction of 25,000 houses assigned to 13,000 applicants.

According to a Kuwaiti daily, Al Fouzan said the Sabar housing complex was unique because of its location in the centre of Kuwait City. He added that the NHA had replaced the contractor in charge of maintenance in the Dhahar housing area as promised.

Distribute

Houses and lots at the Qurain Housing Project will be distributed on time, he affirmed, saying rumours that the date would be postponed were unfounded. He added that the NHA had postponed distribution of 220 houses in Failaka because there were not enough applicants on the island.

The NHA's fourth Five Year Plan will involve construction projects inside the city, he said, as

well as in various residential areas such as Al Zoor, Umm Al Hayman and Al Wafra.

Al Fouzan said the NHA will distribute a total of 2,000 housing units annually, which was intended to maintain the balance between supply and demand. He added that the NHA revises its housing plans according to directions of the Higher Housing Council and in accordance with national housing requirements.

Road closures

AN official source at Kuwait's Public Works Ministry said that not all road closures are caused by the ministry, adding that other ministries such as Electricity and Water, Communications and Kuwait Municipality sometimes found it necessary to close roads in order to complete certain work.

The source said the ministry would connect special lighted signs to indicate that roads are closed, when needed, and to help drivers identify areas under repair.

Widely acclaimed director gives his view in a telephone conversation

American films should be multicultural: John Korty

By Jadranka Porter

JOHN Korty, an independent American filmmaker, who won wide acclaim for a film about a black woman who was an ex-slave, has campaigned for a larger number of black characters to be included in film scripts. But his appeals have fallen on deaf ears in Hollywood where writers continue to produce scripts in which all characters are white.

"I think that's a mistake. I am not necessarily in favour of making films on a particular culture, but the US is a multicultural country and filmmakers should find a way to express that," Korty told Kuwaiti reporters in a telephone conversation on Saturday night following the opening of the American film festival in Kuwait.

Korty's film, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, made for television, will be screened tonight at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry auditorium.

Awards

The film is based on a novel by a black writer Ernest Gaines and portrays a 110-year-old woman who was an ex-slave and lived to take part in a civil rights demonstration in 1962. The film won several Emmy awards in 1974.

It opened many doors for the talented director but it also put pressure on him to do more of the same thing. Scripts about elderly ladies, black families and American history began pouring in. Korty rejected them all to avoid typecasting.

At the same time his agent insisted that he should never make another film for television.

"You should graduate into Hollywood feature films, you've done the best you could in TV movies, don't touch them again, he said to me," recalls Korty.

But the director rejected his agent's advice and did what he has always been best at — doing his own thing. He continued making big-screen films alongside his television productions.

Korty made his first film at the age of 16, 35 years ago. It had no

actors and it was made without a camera, by drawing on film. During his college years in Ohio he worked on films for other directors and eventually set up his own business at the age of 19. In that period he produced documentaries, among them one on the Algerian war in the early 1960s. His first feature film was a low budget production, *The Crazy Quilt*. He wrote the script, directed it, did the photography and editing. In addition he had to do odd jobs to earn his living. The film won critical acclaim but made no money. It was nevertheless a good start and allowed Korty to work with Hollywood studios on his own terms.

Pursuing the career of an independent filmmaker Korty was able to savour the creative freedom many directors crave for, but he also had to grapple with the problems of financing his ventures. In the process he shed any illusions he might have had about those who decide what the American public wants to see. A typical example of the joys and aggravation of independent filmmaking was Korty's documentary "Who Are the DeBolts?". The DeBolts were a family in California who adopted 12 children in addition to the four Mrs DeBolt had from her previous marriage. The children were from Korea and Vietnam and some of them were handicapped. Korty read about the DeBolts in a newspaper and the subject immediately appealed to him.

The first hurdle to overcome was finance. In the past he used to get the money from doctors, lawyers and private investors, but now they found the topic too depressing. Eventually a Japanese greeting card company put up the money. When Korty finished the film he took it to the networks. "They all said the film was wonderful and that it made them cry, but they turned it down," recalls Korty. When the documentary won an Emmy Award he was confident that he

would have no problem selling it. The networks rejected it again. It took a famous TV showman to use his clout for the film to be screened. It was a success. "It had high TV ratings, people were not offended by it, they loved it," says Korty. "Those who decide what American public will or will not watch often do not know what they are talking about."

Struggle

Maintaining his independence has been an uphill struggle but working concurrently on feature movies and TV films has helped. In television he found he had less freedom in a legal sense due to censorship, but more freedom in a practical sense with no imperious producers to argue with and delay projects. "They are in such a hurry to finish a television film that they let you get on with your work," says Korty. Besides television films are cheaper to make and less time is wasted on waiting for scripts, casting and finance than in feature films, which on average now cost about \$13 million.

Korty seems to have found a formula if not to lead him straight to success then to cushion the pangs of producing a failure.

Success

"A filmmaker should always have about 15 projects in development or in different stages of work. Some may never get off the ground. But chances are that by the time your film is released, and it fails, you are already into work on another film," he says.

This has "saved" him on several occasions probably with films such as *Alex and the Gypsy* and *Oliver's Story*. But his good films by far outnumber the poor productions. "The secret of my success in television is that I never learnt to make television movies. I continue to make films as if I was making them for big screens," says Korty. Those who will watch *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* tonight on a big screen will probably be able to confirm that.



● Police officers listen to comments made during the opening ceremony of a four-week training course for officers of the Interior Ministry at the Officers Training Institute at the Police College. The opening ceremony was attended by the Director General of the Police College Colonel Abdullah Al Roumi, the Assistant Director General Colonel Ali Yaqoub Abdullah, the Director of the Officers Training Institute Major Ibrahim Inghaimash and a number of Police College officials.

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Mr Muhammad Ikram Abdul Aziz

on the sad demise of their

FATHER

in Pakistan on 13th Feb 1988

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Friends and colleagues.

محمد اسلام

Statistical studies

THE assistant undersecretary for statistical affairs at Kuwait's Planning Ministry, Musaad Al Omairi, has announced that the Central Statistics Department will begin a series of statistical and economic research studies for 1987 with effect from March 1.

He added that these researches were meant to provide information for economic analysis purposes and for setting up the necessary schemes and economic policies.

He said that the three-month project will cover about 6,000 establishments, including all the

big ones and random samples from small establishments, namely those having less than ten employees.

The establishments will be those dealing with processed industries, oil and minerals, electricity and water, building and construction materials, internal trade and services.

Information would cover production, sales, storage, procurement, workforce, wages, capital and financial transactions.

Al Omairi called on establishment officials to cooperate with the department's representatives.

INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

Ugly face of violence

By Fathima Ahmed

EVERY day the newspapers are filled with news of murders, wars, massacres and violence — subtle or gruesome, numbing our senses and making us believe that such hateful acts are a part of everyday life, a wrong concept that is widely accepted. Oppression is a potent theme, which has been fully exploited by the Hindi film makers. Yet, it takes someone like N. Chandra to hit the nail and pull people out from a deep slumber by portraying the ugly reality of violence.

N. Chandra's latest film *Pratigat*, released last year in India, has been a commercial hit. It is also a fairly compelling movie on why violence should not be condoned.

N. Chandra's first film, *Ankush*, portrayed unemployed youth in disarray mirroring

their disillusion, capturing the tragedy and pathos. It also revealed the dangerous implications of the tragedy.

Pratigat exposes corruption showing the demonic face of violence, stripping bare the hypocritical attitudes of men and women in a normal, middle-class environment. The effect is devastating, pushing viewers in the midst of a situation they'd rather not be, yet compelling them to look around them and, grudgingly, admit that there is a deep, bleeding sore that is getting bloodier by the minute. A remedy is needed, a drastic change is demanded through the lone voice of the weak protagonist's triumphant defiance of the system that seems to breed violence in Chandra's *Pratigat*.

Herein lies the crux of the film.

The woman portrayed superbly by the debutante fragile

actress Sujata Mehta, is perhaps the symbol of the complacent society that Chandra shows in the film. She also symbolises the strength which is subdued under the pretext of tradition and conformity. Chandra in no way propagates violence but he dares to raise a voice against it, urging men and women to defeat it. And that is exactly what the protagonist does.

She is idealistic teacher at a local school who comes to a town terrorist by a villainous gang, backed by a powerful politician. The villains call the shots. In this environment, the woman — who is supposed to be weak — opposes them, calling the shots. She has to pay a high price in a gripping sequence that is reminiscent of David Lean's *Ryan's Daughter*. Only in *Pratigat* it shows the utter cowardice of a people



Sujata Mehta and Nana Patakar in Pratigat

too fearful to speak up against injustice.

It is only in the climax that the film falters, resorting to a melodramatic and violent ending, perhaps showing Chandra's method to eliminate social complacency, a flaw that is easily forgiven for boldly depicting the ugly face of violence.

After seeing films like *Pratigat*, other lesser known films made in the background, even a tele-film scripted by Satyajit Ray pales in comparison.

Ray has written *Kissa Kathamanda Mein*, a mystery thriller, directed by his son Sandip, with Shashi Kapoor playing the super-sleuth, Mitter, a Bengali detective who goes to Kathmandu to investigate a murder. The sub-plot concerns drugs smuggling and manufacture. What is remarkable about K.K.M. is the scenery and the sight-seeing trips to the temples and pagodas. Sandip Ray attempts to make a whodunit, which seems a bit dated having seen better films in that genre.

Indian cinema is 75 years old

Shaky industry faces bleak future

By John Battenfeld

BOMBAY, Feb 14, (Reuters): Lights, camera elephant.

The Indian cinema, the world's largest, flashiest, best-attended and most heavily taxed, is 75 years old.

But taxes, competition from television, video piracy, tired scripts, an expensive star system, censorship and shaky financing have some industry notables facing their Platinum Jubilee with outstretched tin cups.

"With all its faults, it has a vitality and exuberance. It's sheer delight," says Aruna Vasudev, a Paris-trained filmmaker, critic and writer. It all began on May 13, 1913, when Dhundiraj Govind Phalke released in Calcutta India's first feature film, *Raja Harishchandra*, a story from Indian mythology.

Seventy-five years later, India churns out more than 800 films a year in 23 languages. Japan, the world's second biggest film-maker, releases 350 films annually, one hundred more than the third largest, the United States.

Finance The Indian cinema is also one of the world's largest money laundries. Industry sources admit that a good bit of the cash that finances their operations comes from undeclared income, what Indians call "black money."

The cinema provides work for three million people. There are more than 12,000 movie



Sujata Mehta in Pratigat

houses that cater for an average daily audience of 7.5 million people.

India's Hollywood is Bombay, the home of the Hindi epic, a three-hour-or-more extravaganza of drama, romance, action, song-and-dance and comedy. This "all-India cinema" draws the top stars and the biggest — and blackest — money.

But the Hindi cinema accounts for only 14 per cent of total production. Parallel to the commercial output of Bombay and

quick kick, Hiralal disarmed the bad guy and won the girl. "When they go to see a film, they want to see the good man win and get the girl. They want emotion," producer Gul Anand said.

Action

India's 750 million people want action, romance, conflict and, especially music.

Songs and dances pop out of nowhere, often in dream sequences that are the all-purpose Bombay script stretcher.

Indian film-makers spend a lot of time outside the studios battling tax collectors, censors and video pirates. Industry spokesmen say the pirates are killing profits and wiping out the once-flourishing overseas market.

"The cinema industry is not in good health at all thanks to the attitude of government officials," said Ram Lal Nahata, president of the Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association.

Piracy The government take begins with a 200 per cent duty on colour film and ends with a 150 per cent tax on admissions. In between are sales, excise and various state taxes.

There is even a 1,000 rupee (75 dollar) fee to get a film censored. Film censorship was introduced in 1918. Besides sex and violence, the vaguely-worded code bars sensitive political, religious and ethnic subjects.

Officials are less active in anti-piracy efforts. Industry spokesmen say.

Anand estimated the sale of authorised cassettes lasts just three hours on the day of release. "After that there are no more sales," he said. "The pirate laboratories buy one and make 10 copies."

Despite government promises, piracy adds just one more element of risk to a business that Nahata said averaged an 80 per cent failure rate for first-time producers. Indian producers often start with as little as 10 per cent of the total cost at hand. They shoot a few scenes and use the prints to attract investors.

Films sometimes stay in production for as long as two years, stopping and starting as producers scramble for funds. The shaky financial underpinning leads producers to stars with guaranteed box-office appeal.

A Bombay formula epic, in fact, might have four or five leads, so well known that only their faces appear on posters.

They're expensive, too. Sridevi, India's reigning screen goddess, a plump 24-year-old who practically patented the censor-thwarting "wet saree" scene in her more than 300 films, gets two million rupees (155,000 dollars) a film. Nahata said 20 superstars dominated the market. Stars are committed to scores of films at once.

"I'm shooting more than 50 films right now," said Kiran Kumar, barely a middleweight in the Bombay star ranking. It hardly gives Sridevi a chance to wring her saree dry.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News Via Satellite
- 3.30 Ibtal Al Ma'Laeb: cartoon serial
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.20 Ghuloum Bila Matar: last episode of historical serial, featuring Mahmoud Abu Ghareeb, Rashida Dajani, Abcer Essa.
- 5.10 Mama Anisa and Children
- 6.00 Cultural Film
- 6.45 News Summary
- 6.50 Weekend — repeat
- 7.15 Our Children and their Future: ep. 2 focuses on the role of children in Arab and Gulf countries. Tonight's guest is Dr Ahmad Abdullah.
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Rabee Fi Aasifat: daily Arabic serial. Part 2 of discussion on "The Fishing Industry and Marine Resources." Guests
- 10.50 Daa'at Al Ahdath: "Circle of Events."



Richard Kiley plays Gardner in the mini-series, A Year in the Life, at 10.30 pm on KTV2.

are KU Prof. Dr Jasssem Mohammad Hassan; Dr Mohammad Abdullah Saif, Kiser, Adnan Khalifa Rushoud

- 11.45 News Summary
- 11.50 World News Via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Yogis Treasure Hunt: cartoons
- 6.30 The Animal Express: a look at a rare

species of ostrich; removal of tumours from animals.

7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news, presented by KTV.

7.30 Chintz: Richard plans to make a video film about his wife doing household chores, but a friend comes to visit, disrupting his plan.

8.00 News in English

8.40 The Law and Harry MacGraw: McGraw takes up the cause of an innocent person framed for criminal activities.

9.30 Horizon: BBC documentary, "Reflections on a River."

10.30 Mini-Series: "A Year in the Life" Gardner proposes marriage and is turned down by his lady-friend.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

Hotel names 1987 employee

FATEH Shamseldin was named the Best Employee of 1987 by the management of Kuwait Meridian Hotel at a reception hosted for hotel staff. Shamseldin, who is in the front office department working as an airport representative, was selected for overall good performance last year. Picture on right shows Shamseldin (second right) displaying the award after receiving it from the hotel's general manager, Andreas Mattmuller.



NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Shaab Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Kawther Pharmacy
Opp. Police Stn., Abdullah Al Mubarak St.

Hawalli and Nagra
Al Zena Pharmacy
Bin Khalid St.

Salmiya and Rumailhiya
Al Hiba Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.

Fahad and Alnadi
Al Wafaa Pharmacy
Dabbous St., F'heel

Farwaniya
Al Yasmin Pharmacy
Block 1, Jara Commercial Centre, Main St.

Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matafi St.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Zaman Hatham Zahran (Arabic)
Starring: Noor Al Shariff, Noora

Al Salmiya
Hanna K.
Starring: Jill Clayburg, Mohammad Bakri

Al Hamra
Shahenshah (Hindi)
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Meenakshi Seshadri

Drive-In
Al Nimr Wal Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim

Al Firdous
Shahenshah (Hindi)
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Meenakshi Seshadri

Fahad and Alnadi
Fahad Open-Air
Mard Ki Zaban (Hindi)
Starring: Dharmendra

Al Fahad
No Mercy
Al Jahra
Born American
Granada

Down and Out in Beverly Hills

Sahibkhat
When Stranger Calls
Al Jleeb

Naag Purnima (Bengali)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Al Nimr Wal Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.07 am
Zuhr	12.02
Asr	3.13 pm
Maghreb	5.38
Isha	6.55

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Dahyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery
A painting exhibition will be held at the gallery from Feb 17. It will be open from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm.

Sultan Gallery
"Kuwait: Studies in Water-colour" is the theme of a painting exhibition by American artist Kathleen Stafford at the Sultan Gallery, 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm, (except Friday) for two weeks. The gallery is located near the Rolls Royce showroom, Al Soor St.

CINEMA

Films and the Law
Films and the Law is the title of an American film festival, which continues until Feb 17 at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The following films will be shown:

Feb 15: The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman (1974); director: John Korty; starring Cicely Tyson, Odette, Michael Murphy, Collin Wilcox. One of the best movies ever made for American TV. Cicely Tyson won an Emmy award for her performance in the role of a 110-year-old woman who was an ex-slave, and lived to take part in a civil rights demonstration in 1962. Miss Jane is a fictional character but the incidents are based on real events that took place throughout the South after the Civil War. Adapted from Ernest J. Gaines novel. Duration: 100 minutes.

Feb 16: All the King's Men (1950); director: Robert Rossen; starring Broderick Crawford, Mercedes McCambridge, John Ireland, Joanne Dru, John Derek, Oscar winner as the Best Film of 1950. One of the best films on the rise and fall of a politician. Broderick

Crawford won an Oscar as Best Actor while Mercedes won in the Supporting Actress category. Duration: 109 minutes.

Feb 17: The Best Man (1964); director: Franklin Schaffner; starring Cliff Robertson, Henry Fonda, Lee Tracy. Based on Gore Vidal's perceptive and outspoken play, it deals with the hot-and-heavy fight between two leading contenders of the Presidential nomination of their party. One of the best American movies about politics. Duration: 102 minutes.

All films will be shown at 7.30 pm promptly. Children will not be allowed inside the auditorium. The festival has been organised by the American Embassy in Kuwait in tandem with Kuwait Cine Club.

THEATRE

Kuwait Players

"Do Not Disturb", an adult comedy written by Michael Pertwee will be performed at 8 pm on Feb 22, 23, 24 and 25 at the Universal American School. For reservations ring 5613465; 5745838; 5618244. Tickets will also be available at the door.

KLT
Kuwait Little Theatre (KLT), Ahmadi, will hold auditions for the Summer Musical at its premises at 7.30 pm on Feb 16 and 19. Backstage helpers also needed. For further details contact 3985246 after 3 pm.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Society For Handicapped

An open souk featuring everything from silks to groceries, silverware to rugs and toys, is being held at the premises of the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped, behind Andalus Cinema, Cairo St. Open daily from 8 am to 12 noon and 3 to 7 pm, until Feb 15.

Kuwait Nomads

Quiz Night
The Kuwait Nomads Rugby Club will hold "Quiz Night" on Feb 17. Teams of four, must include one lady. For details and team registration contact Jon Evans (5339867) or Tony Sole (5330507) by Monday, Feb 15.

Kuwait Irish Society
St Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact — 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

Music Concert '88
Adeeb, Lynley (vocals), Amaar (guitar/vocals), Aasim (keyboard-synthesizer), Mur-taza (bass guitar) and Raza (drums) will participate in the Music Concert '88, due to be held on Feb 19 at Al Andalus Cinema. They will present a variety of songs, originally sung by such groups as Duran Duran, Europe, Bonjovi and others. Tickets available at Al Andalus box office. For details contact 5618482 or 3983165 (Adeeb).

Kuwait Welsh Society

St David's Day Annual Dinner will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel on Tuesday, March 1. This year's entertainment is to be provided by Doreeb Lewis, a country and folk singer who has just completed recording her fourth L.P. album. For reservations phone 5615332; 3912384; 3940743 ext 231.

Ladies Tea Party
The International Ladies Tea Party will hold a fancy dress competition at their next meeting on March 1 at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel. A karate expert will give a self-defence demonstration. Those interested in participating in the fancy dress show contact 5317390; 5386297.

Martyr's Day
Bangladeshis will hold a meeting and print a booklet to mark the Martyrs Day. Badesik, the Bangladesh Diploma Engineers Society, will hold a discussion on the

"Bengali Language Day" on Friday, Feb 26, from 3 pm at the home of Shafullah Dewan, Abbasia.

The Bandhan Nattya Chakra will publish a booklet and are inviting Bangladeshis to submit articles, not more than 750 words, poems, 100 words, or short stories. They must be submitted before Feb 17.

HOTELS

Al the Ramada Al Salam
Seafood festival has been extended at El Merissa Restaurant, open Sunday to Friday from 7 pm to 11.30 pm. El Bender Coffee Shop offers daily lunch, chef's special and a choice of Continental, Arabic, Indian main course, appetiser and dessert buffet and a carvery roast at dinner time.

Al the Continental
Gardenia offers food and beverage service on the Terrace. Daily dinner buffet and on Fridays lunch buffet with charcoal grilled specialities. Darbar features daily lunch buffet and a la carte for dinner.

SPORTS

Filipino Non-Pro Bowling League

This week's match is on Friday (Feb 18), 6 pm to 8 pm; between Passy City and Paranaqu; it will be held at the Club 300.

Boys Own Club
The third seven-a-side football tournament takes place on Feb 19 at Al Soor Grounds. Draw will be held at 7 am and the first game begins at 7.30 am. All teams wishing to participate contact Joe D'Souza — Tel: 4813622/25 ext. 147.

Raft Race
Raft Race 1988; entry forms and rules are now available from the Messilah Beach Hotel. First captain's meeting at MBH, Al Foz Suite, on March 1, 6.30 pm. For further details contact the hotel, ext. 712/751/705.



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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

INJUSTICE is relatively easy to bear, what stings is justice — H. L. Mencken, US editor (1880-1956).

OPINION

Mr Shultz, situation is different now

THE US Secretary of State George Shultz will arrive shortly in the Middle East to discuss an American peace plan. Shultz has been angry with the Middle East for the last three years because the people of this region foiled the plan he succeeded in making between Israel and Lebanon.

At that time, Shultz did not hesitate to suggest that those who had foiled his plan would pay a high price. Regrettably, they did pay, with the US leaving the Middle East to solve its problems by itself.

The US was convinced that Israel had such a long arm in the Middle East that it could invade Lebanon at any time and could do anything it wanted with the Golan Heights.

Above all, Israel never paid any attention to what the world said about its relations with Egypt and was unconcerned as to whether the Tabat talks succeeded or not.

This is the true face of Israel. And as long as Israel has the upper hand on the Arabs, the US feels comfortable. Shultz wanted only to teach a lesson to those who foiled his plans with the Arabs.

But the picture is different now. Israel no longer faces what is considered to be a danger from neighbouring Arab countries to justify launching aggressive acts against them; destroying their armed forces under the pretext of protecting Israel's security. All of this is readily acceptable to the US and its Western allies, including those who totally support Israel, such as Holland.

Now the war is not at the borders. Fire has erupted inside. Even if Shultz still remembers with pain that his plan was ruined by some Arabs and Israelis three years ago, he must recognise that this situation is different.

Israeli security is in danger — even if Shamir and Rabin smile before the cameras and stubbornly claim that Israel is capable of protecting its internal security.

The question still remains: how will Israel face such a national uprising? Is Mr Sharon and his obduracy able to face the cries of the whole world?

As Shultz comes to the region, we hope he will forget about his previous plan and recognise that the situation is different now. He should remember that it was not the Arabs alone which caused his plan to fail. Israel is also responsible because it was unwilling to withdraw from south Lebanon because it perceived the threat to be from its borders rather than from the inside. They have been proven wrong.

The hope is that the US Secretary of State will forget about his mission of three years ago, that he will come to the region and tell his friend Israel that they have been wrong in their oppressive policies and that what is happening now is the result of such policies.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Reshaping the Palestinian movement

New generation of activists cropping up

By Robin Wright

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon forced the Palestine Liberation Organisation to disperse its fighters, three factors have begun to reshape the Palestinian movement.

● The emergence of a new generation, which has internalised the conflict rather than Palestinians in exile, it is youth on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip who are now initiating and leading protests.

● The introduction of religion as a supplementary or alternative banner of action: nationalism is now mixed with a religious element, making it far more volatile.

● Radicals are taking the lead among the conventional commando factions in catering to the heightened militancy.

The recent rioting among Palestinian youths is just one of several indicators emphasising

the importance of the new generation of activists. "The growth in the number of incidents of stone-throwing at Israeli vehicles represents a new phase in Palestinian resistance. These are not carried out by organised groups but by youth undeterred by the consequences of their actions," concluded a 1987 study released by the West Bank Data Project, a respected Israeli research organisation.

Desperate
Socialised into accepting violence as a natural means of expression after a lifetime of occupation, these youths have also become more desperate because of the absence of peace prospects and the distance and seeming impotence of the PLO.

The potential impact of this generation is reflected in its numbers: Almost 60 per cent of Gaza's population is under 19, according to Israeli estimates; 46 per cent of the West Bank's population is under 14, says the West Bank Data Project. The

PLO may be better armed, but youths in the occupied territories are more motivated and better placed to force the Israeli government's hand.

Islamic fundamentalism's increasing role has also become more evident. On Jan 1, a crowd assembled in an occupied Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque. In an impassioned sermon, Sheikh Muhammad Hussein said: "God does not like oppressors, and God gives you a promise that followers of Islam will achieve their objectives if they adhere to the right path... If you adhere to the Quran, nothing is impossible for you."

Trend
Fundamentalism has been visible on two levels. A 1986 poll by Al Fajr, a Palestinian newspaper, revealed that 26.5 per cent of Palestinians surveyed in the occupied territories supported rule by Islamic law, or Sharia. But less than two per cent said they supported Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, indicating that the

growth of fundamentalism has been indigenous, not imported.

Like Islamic movements elsewhere, however, there is also an extremist side. The first incident was a grenade attack in Gaza, later claimed by Islamic Jihad, in early 1986. Eight Jewish settlers and soldiers were injured. (Gaza's Islamic Jihad is not believed to have ties with similarly named groups in Lebanon and elsewhere.)

This fundamentalist trend is almost a logical byproduct of Israel's experience in Lebanon, when Muslim zealots achieved in three years what the PLO had been unable to do in the occupied territories for two decades — the ouster of Israeli troops. To end a costly occupation, Israel withdrew from Lebanon in 1985 without a single security guarantee for the volatile border. Militant Islam, earlier associated largely with the Persian (Iranian) Shiite Muslims, thus also became an Arab phenomenon.

Islam may be particularly

attractive because it cuts across the wide divide of fractious Palestinian politics. The West Bank and Gaza populations are 95 per cent Muslim, according to the West Bank Data Project.

An Israeli military commander on the West Bank conceded to reporters last October. "If there is something that should bother us in the future, it is a religious reawakening, which has begun in the Gaza area and which is growing and liable to intensify."

The third factor, political radicalisation, has been primarily evident elsewhere, but could also have an impact within the occupied territories.

Conversion
Most noteworthy is the conversion of Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council, which has been linked to series of attacks in the Mideast and Europe, into a conventional guerrilla group. The faction, which broke from the mainstream PLO in the early 1970s,

has begun to recruit among Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

And, while the 1983 split among the PLO's eight traditional wings was partially healed at a 1987 summit in Algiers, three militant factions have continued to keep their distance from the mainstream PLO — and continued unilateral military actions. The most dramatic event was the November hang-glider attack, claimed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command, which killed six Israeli soldiers. The incident marked the highest single Israeli death toll at the hands of Palestinians since the Lebanon invasion.

Since the momentum behind peace was lost after the 1986 collapse of an accord between the PLO and Jordan, militants have been in the limelight. The appeal of radicalisation has grown as militants are seen, at least temporarily, to be doing something for the cause. (CSM).



A beggar sits by a busy street in downtown Kathmandu.

Poverty rises in Nepal despite foreign aid

By Lai Kwok Kin

KATHMANDU, (Reuters): Poverty is rising under the shadow of Mount Everest despite economic growth in the Himalayan kingdom of Nepal, one of the world's poorest nations.

Battered by a fast-growing population and at the mercy of unpredictable monsoons, the landlocked country of 17 million between India and China is lagging way behind other developing Asian nations.

Economists say Nepal will have to continue relying on handouts from foreign aid agencies, now more than \$200 million a year, as it struggles to wean its economy from dependence on agriculture.

Worrying
Nepal's economy is forecast officially to grow seven per cent in the fiscal year ending in July, up nearly three times from last year, said Thakur Nath Pant, joint secretary of the Finance Ministry.

Pant said annual per capita income is expected to rise 4.5 per cent from last year to \$167 this year.

The worrying thing is that more than 42 per cent of the population is living below UN-defined poverty levels, up from 40 per cent 10 years ago, and the rate is increasing, he said.

"The reason is that so far we have not been able to launch income-generating activities to reach the poorer sections. We are still trying to breach the gap but it takes time."

In many hill and mountain areas, annual per capita income is as low as \$40, according to analysts. Some analysts said the seven per cent growth target this year was over-optimistic and a maximum of five per cent was more realistic.

Growth
"It is misleading to say that economic growth has increased," said Mahesh Regmi, director of Regmi Research Institute, a private research group. "How can the gross domestic product grow when the population is rising faster than agricultural production?"

Since the 1970s, the population has increased at a rate of 2.7 per cent a year while agricultural production has grown by only one per cent.

While Nepal has an area of 147,000 square km (57,000 square miles), vast parts of it are rugged, mountainous terrain — unsuitable except for the hardiest people.

Nepal contains or borders on 13 of the world's 20 highest mountains, a boon to its tourism industry which earned it \$41 million in 1985/86 — 19 per cent of its foreign exchange revenue.

About half the population is concentrated in the Terai region, a relatively flat strip of land running across southern Nepal which has become the country's food-belt.

But deforestation, soil erosion, poor irrigation and migration from the hills and from poorer parts of India have taken their toll.

The effect of highly-unpredictable weather on crops has also caused pendulum swings in the pattern of economic growth, which averaged about 4.2 per cent in the last five years.

Western economists based in Nepal said that to improve living conditions, economic growth had to be raised to six per cent over the next few years.

Challenge
"This, however, is a significant challenge for Nepal," said a World Bank official. The World Bank has given \$50 million to help implement an economic reform programme begun in July 1986.

Bank officials and analysts say the programme in particular a more flexible exchange rate, has yielded some success in helping Nepal pay its import bills and reduced bottlenecks preventing utilisation of committed foreign aid.

As of April 1987 the total aid promised by foreign donors but not spent stood at one billion

dollars — equivalent to five years of aid disbursements to the country.

"Until recently, the government was just incapable of spending funds because of insufficient manpower, over-bureaucracy and delays in decision-making," said a senior official of a major donor organisation.

Economists said the reform programme was a short-term cure which failed to tackle the larger issues of poverty and reduce over-dependence on India for trade.

Trade
India accounts for more than half of Nepal's overall trade and the bilateral balance is heavily in its favour.

Nepal must also move away from over-reliance on agriculture, which accounts for 60 per cent of the economy and employs 90 per cent of the workforce, economists said.

A modest industrial programme started in 1981 now employs several thousand people but has so far failed to provide a significant boost to the economy.

"In general terms the economy is responding quite well (to the reforms)... The challenge will be to maintain the political commitments required to undertake increasingly difficult reforms in economic policies," said a source at the US Agency for International Development.

Terrorism affects rights in W. Europe

By Carl Hartman

WASHINGTON, (AP): Efforts to deal with terrorism, migrants and refugees led to most of the criticism on human rights in Western Europe, as recorded by the US State Department in its annual report on the subject.

It quotes an allegation by Amnesty International, a private human rights organisation, that security forces in Northern Ireland practise a shoot-to-kill policy. The British government's internal report on associated charges resulted in a decision not to prosecute anyone.

"The long delay in completing action on the report has stimulated demands for an independent judicial inquiry, as well as allegations of a cover-up by senior police officers," the State Department said.

The report says that in the Republic of Ireland a law has been criticised as "unhealthy for democracy" because it gives police increased power to hold people for questioning. It adds that defenders counter that there are two human rights at stake: the right of citizens to be protected against crime as well as the safeguarding of individual rights from abuse by the police.

Complaint
The report finds that human rights are scrupulously protected in West Germany, but notes a complaint from the International Labour Organisation against the West German practice of excluding political extremists from civil service jobs. "Although the Federal Republic has acknowledged the ILO's findings, it has done nothing to change its practice," the report notes.

In France, it points to the expulsion of more than 100 Basques suspected of aid to a Basque terrorist group in Spain, and of "several dozen" people suspected of helping terrorism in the Middle East.

It says there are incidents in France of discrimination particularly against Arabs and Africans but that "authorities consistently condemn such

incidents." Criticism recorded against Italian authorities include Amnesty International's complaint of torture and ill-treatment in police buildings, about 30 cases of which have been submitted by lawyers in Naples. The official in charge agreed to investigate, the State Department report says.

It also refers to the Italian system that permits reduced sentences for confessed offenders who testify against associates. The report cites criticism that a magistrate may be tempted to order arrests to corroborate testimony by criminals which may be unreliable, and that the system violates the principle of equal penalties for equal crimes.

Concern
The report points out that the president of Belgium's League for the Defence of Human Rights has expressed concern that immigrants accused of offences are being held for long periods before they are brought to trial. It also says that six towns in the Brussels area have taken advantage of a new law that allows them to refuse to register foreigners from outside the 12 countries of the European Economic Community.

But it adds that to date there is no evidence that the law has been used to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, language or social status.

The report speaks of "some overt private discrimination" in the Netherlands against people from Surinam and Netherlands Antilles. It notes a new law forbidding discrimination, and the vote in Parliament to give non-citizens the vote in local elections if they have lived in the country for more than five years.

It refers to the tightening in Norway, Switzerland and West Germany of rules that distinguish between political and "economic" refugees — people who leave their homes to better their lives, rather than for the reasons of politics or religion associated with traditional ideas of asylum.

Stock market crash leaves whizz-kids jobless

High-flying Yuppies brought down to earth

By Judith Matloff

LONDON, (Reuters): The stock market crash last October has left hundreds of London "Yuppie" whizz-kids jobless, their dreams of a lucrative and secure financial career evaporated.

Yuppies (young urban professionals) with £150,000 (\$250,000) mortgages and Porsche cars seem at risk of becoming an endangered species as the axe falls in securities firms.

"In the bull market you thought you were brilliant and the world was yours," said one young stock broker. "The crash blew that fantasy apart."

Even a highflier with royal

links was not spared. Georgia May, named by the press as a girlfriend of Prince Edward, Queen Elizabeth's third son, was fired from Prudential Bache Securities' Australia desk because of cutbacks.

But there is a glimmer of hope for the 22-year-old. She is being interviewed for other jobs in the firm.

Open
Reforms in October 1986, called the "Big Bang" opened up the cosy, brokerage monopoly of London's Stock Exchange to foreign firms and banks.

Competing finance houses offered high salaries to attract young talent, amid grumbling among middle-aged market

veterans about the brash newcomers and their expensive company cars and night-clubbing lifestyle.

But the crash in shares, which began on "Black Monday" Oct 19, cut profits on the exchange. Trading is slack. Commissions are fewer and thinner. And, with not enough jobs to go round, the Yuppie invaders are beginning to go.

In city winebars which just a year ago buzzed with talk of golden handshakes, golden hellos and huge bonuses, junior staff are now likely to lament the latest sackings and wonder who is next.

With at least 2,000 people laid off since October, brokers find it easier to spot parking spaces and

vacant tables at their favourite restaurants. Champagne sales are down and second hand Porsche are going cheap.

Many experts say the shakeout has only just begun. A stock exchange official predicted 10,000 of the 90,000 people in securities will be fired this year, while economist Stephen Lewis of stockbrokers Phillips and Drew sees 50,000 jobs — about 10 per cent of the city workforce — going by 1990.

Trouble
The meltdown has so far been less extreme than across the Atlantic, where an estimated 14,000 Wall Street jobs are targeted to go. But New York Stock Exchange chairman John

Phelan warns the trauma may be greater in London where staff levels built up dramatically during the Big Bang.

The shakeout spells horror for those who had come to expect a life of luxury. "It was hard to come to terms with the fact I was only as secure as the economy," said one fired market maker.

Lightning dismissals meant many cleared their dealing room desks and said goodbye to a high-powered life of luxury in an abrupt 15 minutes. Often there is no paid compensation. The newly-unemployed now drink beer instead of champagne, travel on public transport instead of in company BMWs and rent out rooms to hold down their hefty mortgages.

But they differ from most of the nation's three million jobless in that many were educated at top-notch schools or have an aggressive nose for getting



Georgia: fired
ahead. Some dismissing employers have softened the blow by paying for outplacement services.

Some of the sacked hope for another job in finance but prospects are slim as only the most experienced will find work and even they will find it difficult to match previous salaries.

Ershad and opposition in stalemate

By Earien Fisher

DHAKA, (AP): Three months of often-violent strikes and protests against President Hossain Mohammad Ershad have brought this volatile nation to a political stalemate.

Ershad, a former Army general who seized power in a 1982 coup and subsequently was elected President, refuses to resign.

The opposition, which rarely articulates its ideology beyond saying "Ershad must go" and "The people want democracy," doggedly persists in calling a strike every few days in Dhaka and other major cities.

The chief opposition leaders, Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia, say the virtual 100 per cent compliance with their calls for strike proves the people support them. But random conversations with a score of shopkeepers in the capital indicate otherwise. They say they close for fear they or their shops will be firebombed.

"Yes, I close. Not because I support the strike, but out of panic," said Abdul Qader, who sells housewares near the Buriganga river. "If I open, somebody will loot and burn. That is why I close. I lose money, about 1,200 takas (about \$37.50) in sales a day."

Of that amount, only about 10 takas (\$3.12) represents profit for

the 35-year-old shopkeeper, who has a wife and two children.

Hasina, daughter of President Mujibur Rahman who was assassinated in 1975, and Begum Zia, widow of President Ziaur Rahman who was assassinated in 1981, launched their anti-Ershad campaign Nov 10.

Since then, confrontations between protesters throwing bricks and homemade bombs and police firing rifles and tear gas have killed 25 people by the government's count, 100 by Hasina's count.

In an effort to counter the spiralling unrest, Ershad imposed emergency rule Nov 27, banning public political activities by everyone except himself and permitting police to detain people indefinitely without charge.

On Dec 6, in an effort at compromise, he dissolved Parliament and ordered new elections, but Hasina and Begum Zia refused to settle for anything short of Ershad's own resignation.

Hasina, head of the Awami League, and Begum Zia, leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, are boycotting March 3 parliamentary elections, claiming Ershad will rig the vote to favour his Jatya Party.

"We have to stop this election," Hasina said in an interview. "Under him, there cannot be a fair election."

For many people, the question

of whether to vote appears to hinge more on concern for personal safety than on political activism.

"If there is a bombing, I will not go. Why should I take risks?" asked Zahidul Islam, 37, who sells costume jewellery in a new market shopping centre.

Siraj, a 35-year-old truck driver, had another reason for not voting.

"In 1986 I went to vote and was told I had already voted," said Siraj who like many Bangladeshis uses one name.

A small crowd had gathered as Siraj spoke with a foreign reporter, and one man heatedly told the trucker he had not spoken the truth. Siraj then retracted his remark.

Alliance
Ershad's Jatya Party, which took 212 seats in 1986 parliamentary election, is fielding in all 300 constituencies. Sixteen unopposed Jatya candidates already have been declared elected.

A hastily formed alliance of 73 small parties, called the Combined Opposition Party, is contesting 270 seats. The alliance is visible mostly through campaign slogans painted on public walls. Begum Zia scoffingly referred to it as "a briefcase party."

father. Farooq, who says his funds come mostly from his Consofates Inc. construction business in Libya, founded the Freedom Party last August and is running 110 candidates.

Local and foreign analysts, representing a broad range of ideologies, say Ershad permitted the creation of the Freedom Party in an effort to restrain Hasina and the Awami League, which was her father's party.

Both Ershad and Farooq deny this. Despite the array of candidates, who include 302 independents and members of tiny parties, the election will not provide a test of the country's major political forces, since Hasina's and Begum Zia's parties are not running against Ershad's Jatya Party.

"This election is not going to solve any crisis, so why are these election being held?" asked Anwar Zahid, who resigned as Information Minister last month to protest the decision to go ahead with the elections. He subsequently was expelled from the Jatya Party.

"The election that is now scheduled is a sham election," Zahid said in an interview.

"There is a political stalemate. The opposition cannot achieve. There is neither victor nor vanquished, and the victim is the nation."

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1589 — Duke of Mayenne enters Paris and is declared lieutenant general of the kingdom by the Catholic League.
- 1677 — England's King Charles II announces he has made alliance with Dutch against France.
- 1763 — Peace treaty of Hubertusberg between Prussia and Austria.
- 1798 — Roman Republic is proclaimed by French after capture of Rome, and Pope Pius VI refuses to surrender temporal power and leaves Rome for Valence.
- 1806 — Franco-Prussian Treaty against Britain, whereby Prussia closes her ports to British ships.
- 1894 — France and Germany reach agreement on boundaries between French Congo and Cameroun.
- 1897 — Allied powers land forces on Crete.
- 1898 — US battleship Maine is blown up in Havana, Cuba, harbour.
- 1942 — Singapore surrenders to Japanese forces in World War II.
- 1944 — US troops complete reconquest of Solomon Islands in Pacific Ocean in World War II; nearly 1,000 British bombers pound Berlin, Germany.
- 1965 — China's Foreign Minister Chen Yi says in Peking that peaceful coexistence with United States is out of the question.
- 1973 — United States and Cuba sign agreement asking for prosecution or extradition of hijackers of airplanes and ships into key roles in government of Rhodesia to bring back 1986 — Philippines National Assembly officially proclaims Ferdinand Marcos as President for another six years, after all 1987 — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir says United States has elevated Israel's status to that of an official ally.

up
IN FOCUS
The world today



ROSS-COUNTRY skiers pass German tank traps from World War II as they enjoy the first real winter weekend in Hollerath, West Germany, near the Belgian border yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



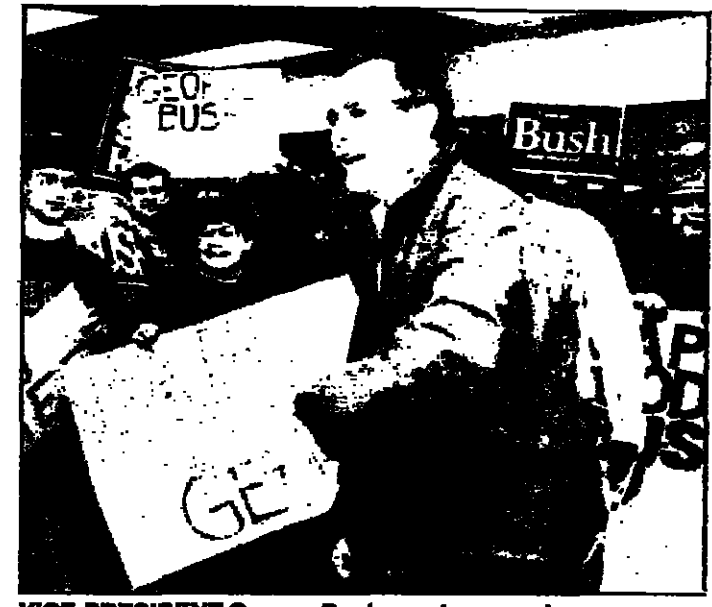
VISITING King Hussein of Jordan (right) and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim (left) review the guard of honour in Innsbruck on the final stage of King Hussein's four-day visit to Austria. (Reuter wirephoto)



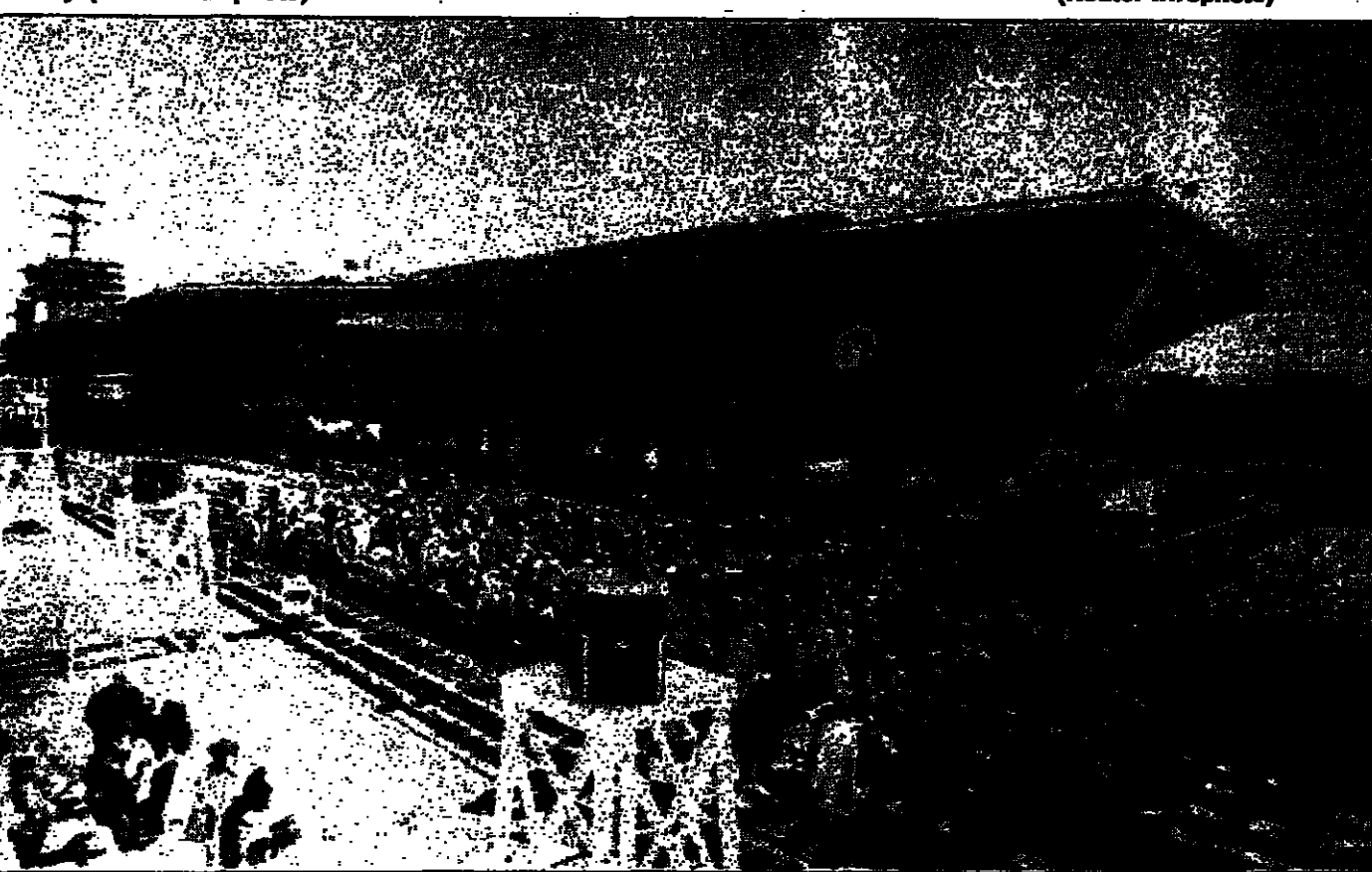
EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak (right) and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal pose for photographers before talks in Cairo yesterday. Ozal is on a four-day official visit to discuss Middle East issues and bilateral relations with Egyptian officials. (Reuter wirephoto)



A PALESTINIAN shepherd watches his flock of goats in front of a burning tyre barricade before the Nuseirat refugee camp yesterday. Israeli soldiers standing several hundred metres away from the barricade made no attempt to intervene. (Reuter wirephoto)



VICE-PRESIDENT George Bush greets campaign volunteers on Saturday at the Bedford, New Hampshire, campaign office; one of several impromptu campaign stops Bush made throughout southern New Hampshire. (Reuter wirephoto)



THE newest US aircraft carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, was launched on Saturday at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co. in Virginia. The Nimitz-class carrier is 1,040 feet long, 13 stories high, and cost approximately \$3.5 billion. (Reuter wirephoto)



FRENCH Democrats Union (UDF) leaders applauded at the end of their meeting during which they affirmed their support for former Prime Minister Raymond Barre for the coming elections. Left to right are: Culture Minister Francois Leotard, UDF President Jean Lecanuet, Raymond Barre and UDF deputy at the National Assembly Jean Claude Gaudin. Around 5,000 people attended the meeting in Paris on Saturday. (Reuter wirephoto)



VIET Rear Admiral Nikolai Markov addresses a press conference at the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Press Centre Saturday in connection with the collision of Soviet and US warships in the Black Sea Feb 12. (Reuter wirephoto)



THIS young lady dressed up as a clown dances the Samba in the main street in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday during the official opening of the 1988 Carnival. (Reuter wirephoto)



AUSTRALIAN Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Bill Hayden (left) jokes with Jordanian acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Doudin after his arrival at Amman port on Saturday. Hayden, who flew in from Damascus, will meet Prince Hassan to discuss recent political developments in the area. (Reuter wirephoto)



RECENT heavy rainfall in France causes flooding in the centre of Paris, where the Seine River overflowed its banks, making roads running alongside the river impassable. (Reuter wirephoto)



HILARION CAPUCCI (right), former Archbishop of Greek Catholics in Jerusalem, flanked by Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, President of the Palestinian Peoples Congress, leads in a combined prayer session in Athens on Saturday. The two men are in Athens with a group of 106 Palestinian deportees to join a ship in a symbolic voyage back to Israel. (Reuter wirephoto)



SEAMEN, released by the Christian Lebanese Forces, rest at an east Beirut hotel lobby on Saturday. Nine foreign seamen, including three Danes were released after the Christian militias had captured them from a cargo ship last December. The men declined to reveal their names. (Reuter wirephoto)

By Victor Davis

MISS Elizabeth Taylor is looking into her future. For a crystal ball she is using her fabled Krupp Diamond, 33 carats of pure white fire that she wears on her chubby left hand next to Richard Burton's wedding ring.

At a range of one quarter-inch, I peered into it and had all the fetching colours of the Oliver Messel Suite at the Dorchester blaze at me from a multitude of facets. My retina fried.

"You can't say it's ugly, can you?" says Miss Taylor, 56 in three weeks' time. "It also does service as a kid's kaleidoscope."

Who's the lucky kid? "I'm the lucky kid," she says crisply.

Miss Taylor has decided, after almost half-a-century of being a one-woman soap opera for the world, that her future lies in her girlhood.

"I'm having a ball," she reports. "Here I am, a grandmother six times over. I have beaux and I'm dating like a teenager."

What she is not doing is marrying, despite the entreaties of jolly billionaire Malcolm Forbes, 68.

It is a sombre thought that four of her six husbands are already dead. She can't take any more of that, although she adds wistfully, "Perhaps one day..."

She's in London to promote her book, *Elizabeth Takes Off* (Macmillan, £12.95) in which she is quite brutal about her own mid-life loss of self-esteem and the obesity that was its outward manifestation. She's even grunted her perfect little teeth and printed some of the fat photographs taken unawares by the paparazzi.

She can publish and be damned because she, once again, looks amazing: handspan waist, streamlined figure and exquisite face that have re-emerged after her iron-willed diet battles.

She swears all the stories of drastic plastic surgery are monstrous lies. She submitted to the knife only to have loose skin under her chin removed.

Miss Taylor is condemned to lifelong pain from three deteriorated vertebrae and a spinal malformation — thus the pictures of her in a wheelchair at London airport.

"Otherwise, I'm feeling terrific. I haven't had a drink for five years and I don't miss

New book reveals truth about alcoholism, obesity, face-lifts

Liz turns to writing



Then and now: Liz Taylor as she looks today, and (inset) as she did a few years ago before embarking on her fight against obesity.

it." She poured me tea, her gold-and-diamond neck chains all but dangling in the cup.

She was jet-lagged after the eleven-hour flight from her home in Los Angeles. Her body was here, her mind somewhere

over Newfoundland — and her heart undoubtedly still in Wales. "I don't expect to live in Los Angeles forever," she said.

I believe Graham Jenkins, Richard Burton's brother, totally when he asserts that, if

Richard had lived, somehow they'd have been together again. And on Michael Aspel's TV show recently she made clear that she doesn't believe

death has ended the tumultuous love affair that has enth-

ralled the world. "I'm sure we will be reunited one day," she said.

I was cautioned beforehand that she would freeze up or cry if I harped on Burton, or Graham's book, the foreword of which she wrote before she'd read it. So it proved.

The book, Richard Burton, My Brother, has shocked the Jenkinses. Elizabeth's second family, for its cruel depiction of Sally Burton, Ladylike. Elizabeth is staying above the controversy.

When we spoke of Rome, where she and Burton fell in love on the set of *Cleopatra*, those midnight eyes grew moist.

"When I went back last year, I found it traumatic. I just had to go home and write down my thoughts. It did help with some of the pain. Writing was a catharsis."

I wondered aloud if writing her own life story, for which publishers have offered her millions, might be a useful therapy. She shook her now raven hair.

"To write my own, I'd be in a constant struggle with myself. I'm too private and it would mean re-living an awful lot of pain."

"People wonder why I rarely give interviews. All through girlhood I was protected. Someone went with me everywhere. I had no privacy until I was an adult. That's why I say I'm having my girlhood now — living my life the wrong way round — and not slicing off too much of myself for public titillation."

The longevity of her fame is hard to analyse, although it has as much to do with off-screen drama as her movies.

But Elizabeth Taylor is the most famous woman on earth. "The only place I'm not recognised is Africa. But only in the bush!"

"I have to laugh at that. It's silly, just a fluke. I haven't even been a full-time movie star for ten years."

For *Cleopatra*, a quarter of a century ago, she became the first million-dollar superstar. Today, Sylvester Stallone's 17 million dollar paydays leave her shaken.

"Those Rambo movies should be locked in a closet," she flares.

Then recovering her poise, adds with a sly grin: "Mind you, I'm not getting the 17 million."

Head for the stars

Ever wondered how the beautiful actresses of Hollywood's supersoaps always seem to have wonderful hair? Their hairdresser, Jose knows all their hair-raising secrets. Here he gives you tips on how to look the tops.

By Kate Molloy

NOTHING can do more for a woman's looks than a new hairstyle. It can make you shriek with happiness or cry for a month.

So next time you take a trip to the salon make sure you choose a style that isn't just fashionable, but also flattering.

Top Hollywood hairdresser Jose, who created the famous styles of Farrah Fawcett and Victoria Principal, never gives a woman a new style without being sure it will suit her.

He says: "Some women stick to the same style for years and years and it starts to look boring. Farrah loves change and she is lucky enough to have a face that suits almost any style."

But that is not the case with most women. Farrah was able to prove that women can still look glamorous with messy hair. A lot of women are scared to have a wild look and stick with a style that doesn't suit them.

"Farrah's crowning glory made history but it was nothing new for me. I had been doing it in Europe for years and America was a bit behind."

"I am thankful that Farrah suddenly proved that hair could be messy, kind of wind-blown and wild and it created a storm of women wanting the same style."

And thanks to Jose, Dallas stunner Victoria Principal now knows how to make the most of her hair.

Jose adds: "She came to me when she was shooting the first series of *Dallas*... a pilot. She was a popular actress but not known internationally as she is now."

"She looked real classic and conservative when she came to see me. Her hair was long and middle cut. She asked me to create a look that was appealing to the television public."

"Everyone on television wants to find this 'look'. She wanted a style with a bit of everything... sexy... glamorous. I came up with a real shaggy hairdo."

This means I am spending more time blowing it dry and curling it. This is to get more volume to her hair because although it is great, it is flat. Victoria has a little face and needs hair to frame it.

"In her case we came up with layers everywhere to give her more volume. She also has extremely straight hair, so I cut it to make a curl."

"The cut helped the curl when she used heated rollers or curling irons. Her new look brought phenomenal response. Thousands of girls wrote in to Dallas to find out how I had cut her hair."

Such was the response to Victoria's hair, Dallas star Linda Gray turned to Jose for help.

He recalls: "Her hair was far too conservative. Although she is in her 40's she is a very attractive woman with a pretty face. She is not 20 but she is still young and, when she came to me, I couldn't believe how good she looked."

"When I had watched the show I thought she was much older. So I thought of the best way to make her appear younger."

"I studied her face and saw that her hair was completely wrong for her. It was mid-length and I knew it should be longer."

"A lot of women are afraid to have their hair long when they age. That is wrong. It looks good when it is cut right and framed around the face. But everything should be right for the style... the neck... the body."

"The hair-do has to go with the personality and the figure. And your lifestyle too. I gave Linda's hair a long fringe at the front and it looked really sexy."

"When people watched Dallas they saw her with long hair that was much straighter. She easily looked 10 years younger. This is a lesson for every woman. You don't have to cut your hair off because you get to a certain age."

If you take Jose's advice and make sure you know exactly what style will suit you, you are sure to be on your way to a fantastic new you.

When you arrive at the salon, nervously awaiting your transformation, remember that your stylist isn't a mind reader. Help them along by bringing plenty of pictures and ideas of what you are looking for. But, bear in mind that not everyone has the right type of hair to look like Princess Diana. So don't expect your hairdresser to perform miracles.

Also be honest about the time and money you can afford to spend on your hair.

Don't let yourself get stuck with a style that needs constant attention and endless visits to the salon.

Try to make an effort with your appearance for your visit to the salon. This will help the hairdresser to assess your style and see what cut would suit you best.

Once the stylist has sent you home grinning from ear to ear, make sure you know how to make the best of your hair on your own.

If you have a style that needs blow-drying try not to do it too often. Hot jets of air lead to dryness and split ends. Buy a diffuser attachment for your dryer. It spreads warm air over a large area and softly blows wetness away.

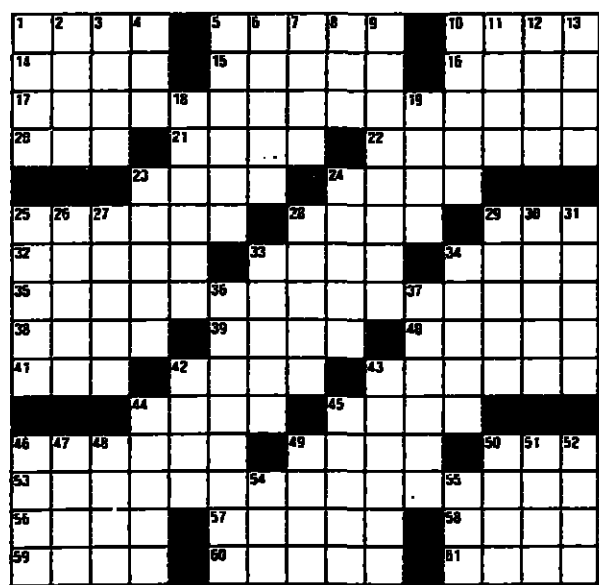
Never rub hair with a towel, it only encourages tangles. Put your head upside down and run your fingers through the hair to expel the water.

And if you want to tie your hair back never use a bare elastic band. It will only damage and break your hair. Use a material coated band, they are much kinder.

Have a regular trim even if you are growing your hair. If you have an inch cut off a month it will stop an ugly, straggly bottom line building up.

And lastly, take good care of your hair. If you go to bed at night with it still covered in hair spray or you forget to condition it after wash you can't expect it to look luscious.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Have trouble with essies
- 5 Omni, for one
- 10 Playbill listing
- 14 Capri or Wight
- 15 Jeweller's weight
- 16 Lotion ingredient
- 17 Resplight favorite, with "The"
- 20 UK language
- 21 Approximately
- 22 Kitten's loss
- 23 "Caro nome," for one
- 24 Plant stem
- 25 Put in the hold
- 28 Star
- 29 Pinatone part
- 32 Trial's partner
- 33 Weapon, for Napoleon
- 34 Rational
- 35 One of the Pillars of Hercules
- 38 Wings, for Amor
- 39 Leslie Caron role
- 40 "The Age of Reason" author
- 41 They, in Paris
- 42 Word with dark and handsome
- 43 Appropriate as one's own
- 44 Like some excusss
- 45 Amble
- 46 Comfort
- 49 Armor
- 50 Lync poem
- 53 Wright-Forrest musical of 1944
- 56 Staff worker
- 57 African cat
- 58 Chip in chips
- 59 Wild hog
- 60 Unusual people
- 61 Secondhand

DOWN

- 1 Longest sentence?
- 2 "When the trost"
- 3 Fake coin
- 4 Write
- 5 Mite
- 6 Mrs. Gorbachev
- 7 Conductor
- 8 "Emerald"
- 9 Approximately
- 10 1983 TV serial
- 11 "Thanks —"
- 12 A few
- 13 Harold of the comics
- 18 Corrida figure
- 19 Delicate
- 23 Greeted the dawn
- 24 Disney deer
- 25 Caravansary
- 26 Danish dwarf
- 27 Killer
- 28 Pato cooker
- 29 Method of drying cloth
- 30 Silly
- 31 Ateher headwear
- 33 Spry
- 34 Negligent
- 36 Andalusian dance
- 37 Symbol of manly youth and beauty
- 42 Tijuana tidbit
- 43 Water colors
- 44 Important beam
- 45 Cooke
- 46 Make a — (try)
- 47 Home of the Talts
- 48 Helen of Troy's mother
- 49 Change addresses
- 50 Has
- 51 Antiquate
- 52 Gave the once-over
- 54 Card game
- 55 Arthur Santha Rama —

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

RACED ATOP LEAR
ALONE ROMA ERSE
GOLDFINGER ANTE
SIA IDEA ORCIAL
TALE SLOB
SAILINE PLEBALD
ARENT PARD LOLO
WRAP ICE LARA
NISA STET SONAR
SENATOR CHOSEN
ADEN CAEN
GIMLET CORIA EET
ARIL SILVERSTAR
PIARE OIKIE ERODE
ENVY NIEION RANIE

GOREN BRIDGE

By Charles Goren and Omar Sharif

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQJ63 ♣KQ5 ♠AQ ♣KJ5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
What action do you take?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQJ954 ♠A6 ♠AQ ♠AQ5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
What action do you take?
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ ♣KJ5 ♣KJ ♠K107642
What is your opening bid?
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK6 ♣KJ872 ♠KJ643 ♣—
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K105 ♠AKJ983 ♠— ♠K873
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ105 ♠95 ♠AQJ3 ♠AJ8
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT 2 ♣ Pass Pass
What action do you take?



"It's a bicycle roof-rack."

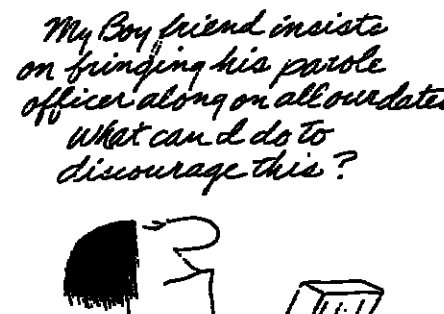


THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.



YOUR STARS



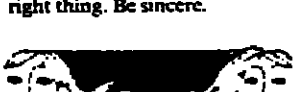
Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You should not delay something you well know ought to be done now. Do not confuse what is essential with what is not. Make sure you do not leave anything half undone. Be compassionate.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

The prospects are better today. If your health is giving you cause for concern do not hesitate to consult a doctor. You will be able to do the right thing. Be sincere.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

Uranus's influence will help you to keep things simple. You will feel a little more aggressive and must try to control yourself. You should take another look at the situation if possible from a different angle.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

This is going to be one of those less than pleasant days. You should concentrate your attention on what has to be done. Try to avoid doing anything that goes against the dictates of your conscience. Be more frugal.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

The better influence of Mars and Jupiter will help you to make the right decision even if it is not the most pleasant one. You should take the best of care of your health.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You should try to be a little more patient. Uranus's influence will help you to avoid allowing yourself to be deluded. You should not exceed any speed limits. Be more tolerant.



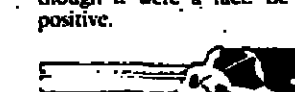
Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You should not try to do things by force. Nor should you put your partner into any sort of predicament. A little more commonsense is what is needed just now. Be resilient.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Your prospects are improving day by day. You should not claim to know more than you actually do know. Do not state an opinion as though it were a fact. Be more positive.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will have a good idea which will help you to save money. You will find it easier to persuade others to your point of view. You must not spend too much time gossiping. Be fair.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Uranus's better influence will help you in taking the initiative. You must try to avoid allowing someone to take the credit for what you have done. However it would be no better to take credit for what you have not done. Be lenient.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will feel rather more satisfied with the way things are going. You will be more in touch with what is happening around you. Make sure you do not eat or drink enough to put on weight.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

Something that appeared incredibly difficult will prove to be less so. You have good reason to be pleased with yourself. It would do you well to look at the funny side of things too. Be amenable.

Disgraced US president finds there is life after Watergate

Richard Nixon: scarred but not beaten

He turned 75 last month and with a new book soon to be published, the former US president enjoys his role as a world statesman while finding inner peace in the company of his family.

By Trade B. Feldman

ON August 9, 1974, I was in the East Room of the White House watching Richard Milhous Nixon — after he had resigned the presidency — bid farewell to his staff and cabinet.

On the South Lawn, I saw him board the Marine One helicopter to begin his journey home, and to apparent oblivion.

Back in the East Room, soon after, I heard Gerald R. Ford take the oath of office as the 38th President of the United States and say: "May our former President who brought peace to millions find it for himself. May God bless and comfort his wonderful wife and daughters, whose love and loyalty will forever be a shining legacy to all who bear the lonely burdens of the White House."

Now, as he has turned 75, it appears that Richard Nixon has found that inner peace. And it is evident that he has not into oblivion.

"He is seventy-five, going on fifty," says son-in-law David Eisenhower, with a grin. "Since I've known him, he has never been sharper and more alert. I've learned a lot from him."

Inspiration

During the laborious years David was writing Eisenhower At War, the book about his grandfather, Nixon encouraged him. "I was discouraged by the tedious work," David says, "but Mr Nixon would tell me, 'Take the time, research more and it will be an important book.' And he was right. Eisenhower At War was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize."

David's wife, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, describes her

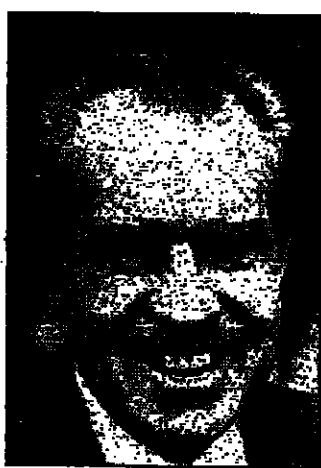
father as "an inspiration to everyone in our family. While my mother was recovering from a stroke, he was also her strength." She adds: "Daddy is still excited about life. He is an upbeat person, always looking to the future."

Julie, the younger of the Nixon daughters and her father's most ardent defender during the difficult months of Watergate, says she has always admired his spirit and his ability to cope with overwhelming adversity. "He's a real battler," she told me. "All his life he has fought back. And the family has always been supportive of him. Now he is serene and he loves to be with his family."

The Nixon grandchildren now number four: David and Julie's daughters, Jennie, age nine, and Melanie, three, and son Alex, seven; and Edward and Tricia Nixon Cox's son, Christopher, who will be nine in March. Jennie was 11 months old when she began to talk, but because she couldn't pronounce "Grandpa," she started calling Julie's father "Ba." And "Ba" he remains to all his grandchildren ("Ma" is their name for Pat Nixon).

Unique

"My father-in-law is really involved in the lives of his grandchildren," Ed Cox told me. "His interactions with them are frequent and stimulating, both for him and for them." Cox adds: "For the past twenty-five years, I have known him as my grandfather's father, as a lawyer, as president of the United States, as my father-in-law (since 1971), as a friend, as his travelling assistant and as a grandfather. Yet I have never really paid any attention to his age. To me, he doesn't seem to age."



Richard Nixon, 75, going on 50, is how his son-in-law David Eisenhower describes him.

"He is a unique person, and I don't think there is another statesman like him. When you talk with him on international affairs, you recognise that you are talking to a tremendous world resource."

"Over the years, seeing him under so many different circumstances, I marvel that his mind and spirit have consistently been vibrant and challenging. No matter what the issue, conversations with him are interesting and thought-provoking. My father-in-law's strong sense of history and philosophy and foreign policy have had a major impact on my views of world affairs and in broadening my life."

Cox has often travelled with his father-in-law and vividly recalls, during a visit to Egypt, watching Nixon and the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, using a large globe to discuss intricate matters in geopolitics.

Sadat's widow, Jihan Sadat, has seen Nixon both during and after his White House years. "I've always admired and respected him," Mrs Sadat told me recently. "So did my husband. We considered him a strong president, a great leader. Few in the Middle East forget his warmth. He left wonderful memories there."

Mrs Sadat recalled Nixon's 1974 visit to Egypt shortly before Watergate forced his resignation: "He must have

kept all his suffering inside," she said. "He bore his anguish in dignity and never did complain."

At one time, Mrs Nixon worried that, because of Watergate and all that it embraced, history would neglect her husband's accomplishments. She is now convinced that "when the Watergate story is better understood, people will agree that he never sought personal gain."

"He took the presidency very seriously," she says. "His most important goal was to achieve a peaceful world, one built on trust and respect. When his contributions are assessed, I feel sure he will go down in history as a great and a peace-loving president."

Julie says: "I also hope my father's achievements will not be overshadowed by Watergate or by his mistakes. He certainly made mistakes and one major one was delegating too much authority to others. Their abuse of that authority proved tragic for his presidency."

Pat Nixon adds: "My husband doesn't dwell on the past. He is a positive thinker and an optimist. He has a good mind, a big heart and a kind soul."

In Julie's book Pat Nixon: The Untold Story, Mrs Nixon expresses further sentiments about the Richard Nixon she has known for 50 years: "...I don't think there is a man living who has more noble qualities, who is as kind and thoughtful and unselfish. He is always thinking about the country and not himself. There just isn't anything small about him in any way."

Maintains

The former president paid his respects last spring at the funeral of William J. Casey, Nixon's chairman of the Security and Exchange Commission, and of Arthur F. Burns, his chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. "He has an immense loyalty to old friends," Mrs Casey told me. "His presence at our home and at the church during our mourning meant a lot to me."

After Nixon's tribute to Arthur Burns at his memorial,

Burns' wife, Helen, concurred: "Mr Nixon's remarks were eloquent. He didn't read even one word. All the words came from his heart."

The former president maintains that the primary commitment of his years in public service was to secure and preserve a generation of peace.

Rose Mary Woods, Nixon's longtime personal secretary and confidante, remarks: "I worked with him at close range for almost twenty-five years, and his efforts on behalf of world peace have been awe-inspiring."

The first American president to visit China as well as the Soviet Union, Nixon has sustained his role as a world statesman. In addition to countless foreign visits, he recently took a 3-day fact-finding trip around the world.

Reflecting on the vicissitudes of his life, Richard Nixon has indicated that the period following his 1974 departure from the White House was one of severe emotional and physical strain. His closest brush with death came in October of that year when he went into shock after surgery for phlebitis. At the time, Pat Nixon said, "There were five hours when he was fighting for his life. Except for the grace of God and the doctors, he would have died."

Alive

Today not only very much alive but fit and hale, Nixon believes that he has been able to cope with the drastic changes in his life because of the religious convictions he has carried with him since childhood. "My mother and her Quaker background have had an enormous effect on my outlook on life, personally and politically," he told me. "The Bible was always open on the family breakfast table, and each morning my mother would encourage me to read from it."

Says Tricia: "My father has an inner faith in God that gives him strength to carry on. He believes in something greater than himself, which I think has been a comfort during times of injustice and times of trial."



The Nixons visit Egypt just before his fall from the presidency.



Nixon plays with one of his four grandchildren.

As a youngster, Nixon's Aunt Olive told me, he liked to wander up a hillside near his California home to lie on the grass and wonder what the world was all about. "Richard was a serious boy," she said. "He seemed mature early in life and was interested in things beyond the usual grasp of his years. He would go off by himself to secluded places, look up and 'skydream.' If you asked him why, he'd respond, 'I just like to think and to dream.'"

Today, Nixon, who has described himself as "an introvert in an extrovert's profession," still loves his solitude and guards his privacy. He is a well-organised person who doesn't like to waste time. He relaxes by listening to classical music or playing the piano. For exercise, he swims often and takes two-mile long walks each morning with his dog, Brownie. Occasionally, he walks another mile after dinner.

How does Richard Milhous

Nixon feel about reaching 75? "I am increasingly of a mind that birthdays are not necessarily things I ought to be celebrating," he answers.

Nonetheless, he will be celebrating the completion of a new book, his seventh, titled 1999, soon to be published by Simon & Schuster. "The book is a review of the twentieth century and a look forward to the twenty-first century and how we can make it a century of peace," Nixon told me.

Prince Edward sets tongues wagging



Prince Edward: one recent study totted up the nicknames he's collected, such as 'The Windsor Wimp,' 'The not-so Royal Marine' and 'The Prince of Clowns.'

For years in the shadow of his elder brothers, Britain's Prince Edward is finally a media star on his own. Popular or not, the prince is certainly not one to be ignored as the tabloids comment on his new theatre career and girlfriend.

By Gregory Jensen

LONDON, (UPI): Already the wags are crowing that at last Prince Edward, Queen Elizabeth's youngest son, has a really useful job.



The prince with an unidentified companion. He is said to be completely smitten with a financier's daughter, Georgia May.

A recent announcement that he's joining composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Really Useful' Theatre Co. "as a production assistant to work within the theatre division," as Buckingham Palace put it, makes the 23-year-old prince with a

premature bald spot the first member of the royal family to opt for the theatre as a career.

Some people say it's about time. For Edward has made an unfortunate name for himself recently. Two recent public opinion polls named him the least popular member of the royal family.

Since he abruptly shed his Royal Marines uniform last year, he's widely seen as an idle young man with a passion for theatrics who has been searching, but not searching very hard, for something to do with his life.

One recent study totted up the nicknames he's collected: "The Windsor Wimp, The Inaction Man, The not-so-Royal Marine, Edward the Outcast, Edward the Lost, The Prince of Clowns."

But hold on a minute. Listen to one professional royalty watcher: "For all his shyness, Prince Edward has displayed a curious ability to melt and infuse with his own non-stop enthusiasm all those who work with him," wrote Madeleine Kingsley. "No one has a bad word to say. Can they all be blinded by uncritical royalism?"

"He deserves a better press than he's had," said another writer. Last spring Edward was responsible for a two-part television documentary about the youth-spurring programme devised by and named after his father, the Duke of Edinburgh's awards scheme. Edward wrote the scripts, narrated the shows, did on-camera interviews — including interviewing his father, which must have been intimidating.

"He's no dilettante," said the show's nominal producer, Michael Begg.

"The prince was a lot less trouble than 90 per cent of the presenters (anchors) I work with. He's obviously taken pains to find out what this TV



Prince Edward in a kilt rehearses for a dramatic production. The prince has now joined composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Really Useful' theatre company.

business is all about. ... he even threw himself into the boring bits like sound dubbing."

The 6-foot-2-inch prince works hard for the awards scheme, both behind the scenes and out front. To raise money for it he spent four complex, difficult months of 1987 producing the "Royal knock-out" TV special — which was a giant public relations flop.

The show — four royal-led teams of celebrities playing silly games in silly medieval costumes — gained Edward huge unpopularity. Yet Princess Anne's save the children fund launched a new immunisation campaign in Uganda with the money it raised. The awards scheme expanded its programmes for underprivileged kids in the Third World. The show was even nominated for an American TV award.

"Royal knock-out," wasn't the only charity event for which

the producer-prince dragooned a flock of the famous to work for him.

"He was always brilliant at harnessing help," said one long-time associate. "He's well aware, of course, that he can ask, because of rank. But he's very conscious of doing good with it."

Edward does love show-biz — as his new, if lowly, job proves. He acted in a Shakespeare play this autumn — he played a prince, to luke-warm reviews — and the other night he narrated "Peter and the Wolf" with the London Symphony Orchestra at a packed charity concert.

Many people who consider his stage-struck attitude inappropriate forget that Edward is also the active patron of the National Youth Theater, besides working hard for several charities for the young, especially disadvantaged kids.

Yet in one of the year-end polls, Edward was "seen as a petulant and self-indulgent." Respondents voted him the royal family member they would least like to meet.

Gradually, however, the young prince is finding his defenders, like those already quoted. And the way Britain's newspapers have gone berserk lately over his latest girlfriend proves that popular or not, Edward definitely is not ignored.

The prince invited Georgia May, 22, to share four days of the royal family's vacation at the Queen's private estate, Sandringham. Georgia, brunette daughter of a yachting millionaire, ate with the royals, shared cars with Prince Philip and Queen Mother Elizabeth, joined a royal shooting party, walked hand in hand with Edward through Sandringham's 90-acre gardens.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

GENDER IDENTIFICATION USUALLY SET BEFORE AGE 3

QUESTION: I've always tried to teach my son to be a man, but some of his actions are very feminine. I'm worried. What can I do?

ANSWER: You obviously are worried that the feminine actions your son displays means that he will become a homosexual and therefore will not be a "man." Gender identification usually is set before age 3, which means that sexual preference and identity (the sex that you internally see yourself as) is set by that time.

Extreme feminine behaviour is not normal in boys, but it is defined as having one or more of the following characteristics: expressing a wish to be a girl; intense interest in activities that are stereotyped as female (dressing up in girl's clothes, playing with dolls, using cosmetics and jewellery); preference of girls as friends, dislike of the male body; and display of feminine gestures and mannerisms. You say your son shows "some" feminine behaviour, and so it is not extreme.

Although male feminine behaviour is always abnormal, it is not a definite sign of future transsexualism or homosexuality. (Transsexuals feel they are the wrong sex for their body, for instance, a woman "trapped" in the body of a man. Homosexuals are

sexually attracted to their own sex.) About two-thirds of boys showing extreme femininity become homosexuals and many homosexuals have never shown any feminine behaviour characteristics. However, feminine boys are likely to be emotionally troubled, partly from an over-attachment to their mothers and partly from the abuse they get from other men and boys.

No one knows what causes boyhood femininity, but studies show that the family does play a role. There is often an over-protective yet authoritarian mother, a traumatic disruption of the mother-child relationship during the first three years of life, depression in the mother and a physically or psychologically absent or violent father. There is no evidence of either a genetic or hormonal abnormality in feminine boys, but this doesn't mean that one may not be found someday.

Boys who show signs of extreme femininity should receive psychological counseling to help relieve their depression and anxiety. The earlier the treatment starts, the better. Counseling can help reduce or eliminate extreme feminine behaviour, but it can rarely change an underlying gender identification.

It is obvious to me from your letter that you are a concerned parent and are having difficulty dealing with this situation. It's a complex problem, and you would not be ill-advised to seek more information for yourself from local counselors. Your school psychologist would be a logical first step.

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW: First noticed as a clumsiness caused by a stiffening of the arms and legs, and then affecting both speech and hearing in some, cerebral palsy is a motor disorder that usually appears from infancy to the preschool age. This condition is not progressive, and the brain defect that causes CP does not worsen. While we know of no cure, as yet, many of the defects may be helped by appropriate therapy. The path that leads to those resources starts by writing to the United Cerebral Palsy Associations, Dept. B, 66 E. 34th St., New York, N.Y. 10016. You may call (800) USA-1-UCP or in New York state, (212) 481-6342. Depending upon your questions and needs you will receive publications, responses to questions and referrals to resources close to home, all with the goal of improving the quality of life for those afflicted with CP.

1988 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Japan and UK may experience highest growth rates

Oil prices unlikely to rise much above \$18 a barrel

This is the second part of the article "Gulf non-oil GDP growth looks set to continue." The first part of the article appeared on the Arab Times on Feb 13.

World demand for oil has rebounded in the last two years after touching a bottom of 45.8 mbpd in 1983.

It was up by around 2 per cent in 1984 and 3 per cent in 1986. Only in 1985 did it record a marginal decline of around 0.6 per cent.

According to Assam's Gulf Economic and Financial report, the world oil market reflects the recent changes made by the IEA on world supplies, demand and inventories going back to 1973. For 1987 total non-Opec supply was around 28.7 mbpd, a marginal increase of around 0.4 mbpd on the 1986 level.

Production from North Sea, Mexico and Canada assumed the previous year's level, while USA production dropped by 0.3 mbpd.

The loss in production was mainly due to the shutdown of high cost wells in the US. Most of the increase in non-Opec production came from other marginal producers and was also due to an increase in net exports from the Eastern Bloc countries.

Opec production in 1987 is estimated at 19.3 mbpd (17.6 mbpd of crude oil and 1.7 mbpd of natural gas liquids) compared to 17.9 mbpd in 1986.

Growth
The higher world demand has made it possible for Opec to exceed its last year's crude oil production quota of 15.8 mbpd for the first half and 16.6 mbpd for the second half without leading to a collapse in prices.

The above quota production was more evident in the fourth quarter of 1987 with crude oil output of around 19 mbpd (19.1 mbpd in October, 19 mbpd in

November and 18.8 mbpd in December).

Inventories were drawn down at the rate of 0.6 mbpd last year, however, this did not prohibit Opec from maintaining most of the 2 mbpd increase in market share attained in 1986.

The growth in oil demand is likely to be modest this year given the limited economic growth potentials in the OECD region following the stock markets crash last year and the rise in the value of the European currencies vis-a-vis the dollar.

The world economy is postulated to grow by 2 per cent in 1988 following a 2.5 per cent growth in the preceding two years.

Japan and the UK may experience the highest growth rates of 3.2 per cent and 3 per cent respectively, with the US growing at 2 per cent, Germany and other European countries at around 1.5 per cent.

Commensurate with the slower economic growth prospects, world oil consumption is foreseen growing by around 1 per cent this year down from a growth rate of 1.7 per cent recorded in 1987.

Total demand of 49.1 mbpd will be met by 28.7 mbpd of non-Opec production (the same level as the year before), a further drag down on reserves of 0.2 mbpd and a residual Opec production of 20.2 mbpd (1.8 mbpd of natural gas liquids and 18.4 mbpd of crude oil).

The stability in non-Opec supply is due to counter-balancing factors. While the supply from the USA and the North Sea is projected to further decline next year, that from other non-Opec countries (e.g. Canada, Syria, Brazil, Yemen Arab Republic, Australia etc.) will record marginal increases.

The residual demand for Opec crude oil of 18.4 mbpd in 1988 is large enough to accommodate

current Opec production quota of 15.06 mbpd, plus Iraq's total output of 2.6 mbpd, neutral zone production of 0.3 mbpd and other above quota production of 0.4 mbpd.

If most Opec members adhere to their agreed upon production levels, official prices of \$18 a barrel could be sustained.

However, the residual demand for Opec oil for the first half of 1988 is estimated at around 17.6 mbpd while that of the second half is around 19.2 mbpd. This means the market will be oversupplied in the first half, with a tendency for prices to ease, while in the second half the higher world demand could lead to firmer prices.

Production
Opec was able to bring down its production to 16.7 mbpd in January, from the December level of 18.8 mbpd.

If this production level could be maintained throughout the first half of the year, oil prices will gradually firm up, depending on the market perception of price discounts and Opec production levels.

In the second half of the year, especially in the 4th quarter, market prices could rise above the official level as the residual demand for Opec oil rises to around 19 mbpd.

Looking further ahead, the dynamics of the supply and demand in the world oil market promise to be more favourable for the residual demand of Opec crude oil.

The world demand of oil is seen slowly rising till the end of this century. Total consumption is projected to reach 49.9 mbpd in 1990 and 53.5 mbpd in 1995.

Non-Opec production is expected to be stable in the coming years before it starts to decline to 28.5 mbpd in 1990 and 27.2 mbpd in 1995.

US production dropped by 400,000 mbpd a year in 1986 and

1987. The projections suggest that Opec's production capacity in the later part of the 1980s will be ample to cover requirements even at the top end of the demand estimates.

Thus some production controls will need to be retained, implying that there will be little scope for a major price surge in this period. This allows oil prices to move up only gradually in response to a firmer world oil demand till the end of this decade.

However, the situation will be different in the 1990s. Opec production is projected to exceed 80 per cent of projected capacity in the early 90s, reaching 94 per cent in 1995. Once Opec's operating rate approaches 80 per cent of capacity then the organisation of exporting countries will be able to exercise more control over oil prices allowing them to firm up to the \$28 a barrel level in 1995.

The improvement in oil prices and the generally higher oil production levels last year brought forth a major boost in the region's oil revenues.

Total revenues of the six GCC countries are estimated to have increased by 20 per cent in 1987 to \$39,244 million, up from \$32,720 million the year before.

Even though average daily production of Saudi Arabia dropped to 4.02 mbpd last year compared to 4.78 mbpd in 1986, the rise in oil prices has more than offset this decline boosting the Kingdom's oil revenues by around 10 per cent to \$19,126 million.

Kuwait's average daily production declined marginally by less than 1 per cent, however, its revenues were up around 20 per cent. UAE raised its output last year by 8.6 per cent, which together with the higher oil prices led to a 40 per cent increase in the country's oil revenues. The corresponding revenues of

Oman, Qatar and Bahrain are estimated to have increased last year by 36 per cent, 28 per cent, and 10 per cent respectively.

The rise in oil revenues are normally translated into higher government expenditures leading to an overall improvement in economic growth conditions.

Positive GDP growth is estimated in 1987 for the various Gulf countries. UAE is believed to have recorded the highest growth rate (6 per cent), followed by Oman (3 per cent), Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar (2 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (1.5 per cent). This suggests that the bottom of the current business cycle has been reached in 1986 when the largest declines in growth rates were recorded.

Positive
With the exception of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, the negative inflation rates of the past few years are estimated to have turned positive in 1987.

Even though on the domestic scene the depressionary internal factors are still holding (lower rents and wages, depressed real estate prices and generally weak domestic demand), the inflationary impact of higher import prices has become more evident last year.

In Saudi Arabia the effective government subsidies on basic goods and services were instrumental in maintaining negative inflation last year. Bahrain benefited from lower prices of basic commodities as retailers reduced prices to maintain competitiveness with products sold on the other side of the causeway.

Marginal increase in consumer prices are projected for all the Gulf countries this year.

Given the postulated oil price and production levels for 1988, the region's oil revenues could record a decline of around 8 per cent on the level attained last year.

The combined earnings of the six GCC states is projected at around \$35,789 million down from \$39,244 million in 1987.

All the GCC countries are projected to record lower revenues under the assumed price and production scenario for 1988. The forecasted decline will vary from 20 per cent for UAE, 17 per cent for Kuwait, 8 per cent for Qatar, 6 per cent for Oman and Bahrain, and 1.7 per cent for Saudi Arabia.

The price of oil is unlikely to rise much above its present level of \$18 a barrel until well into the next decade.

The 1988 Saudi budget calls for a 17 per cent cut in total expenditures on the previous budget to \$37.7 billion, a 10 per cent decline in total revenues to \$28.1 billion and a 32 per cent cut in the budget deficit to its lowest level since 1983/84, or \$9.6 billion.

For the first time in 25 years Saudi Arabia has announced its intention to borrow domestically. A debt ceiling of \$8 billion has been set, and the drawdown of government reserves are thereby reduced from \$14.1 billion in 1987 to \$2.1 billion in 1988.

Price

The projected oil revenues of \$18.4 billion for 1988 are believed to be realisable if the Kingdom was able to produce its full Opec quota, and the average price per barrel of Arabian crude was around \$16.5.

This year's budget cuts affected all sectors, with allocations for Human Resources and Defence and Security sectors being reduced least.

Development expenditures are budgeted at around \$17 billion of which \$2.4 billion allocated for 51 new projects.

The balance goes for current expenditures.

Concluded

Half of Americans favour tougher trade barriers

NEW YORK, Feb 14, (Reuters): Only half of Americans favour tougher trade barriers against imports and a large majority believe products from Japan are as good or better than those made in the United States, according to a Newsweek poll.

Fifty per cent said they favoured trade barriers that would make it more difficult or expensive to sell foreign imports in the United States. That question did not focus on Asia.

The poll found that 75 per cent of Americans believe products made in Japan were as good or superior to those manufactured in the United States but 54 per cent said Japan had unfair trade policies with the United States.

Better
Asked the same questions about China, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong, no more than 42 per cent said those countries made better or as good products and between only 31 per cent to 39 per cent said they had unfair trade policies.

Forty-nine per cent said they believed Japan would be the dominant Asian economic power by the middle of the next century and 39 per cent said it was "very" or "somewhat" likely it would become an enemy of the United States.

ADB to invest in Pakistan's equity market

ISLAMABAD, February 14, (Xinhua): The Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) will support the equity market in Pakistan by investing about \$10 million to purchase securities from the stock exchange, official sources here said today.

The amount to be spent here is part of an Asian Development Equity Fund established by the ADB with the purpose to develop equity markets in a number of Asian Developing Countries (ADCs).

The total fund is expected to be \$100 million.

Markets

The fund is the first in the series to be floated by ADB. It is expected that the bank in future will also float new funds and buy stocks of the Asian countries, including Pakistan, whose stock exchanges are faring better and giving good results, the sources said.

The fund will seek to participate in and benefit from the opening of the equity markets in the region for private investment, they said, adding that opening of markets will assist in the recycling of surplus funds for the benefit of development in the region.

Markets set to react favourably to US trade figures

TOKYO, Feb 14, (Reuters): Brokers and analysts, cheered by news of a smaller than expected US trade deficit in December, expect Pacific markets to react favourably this week.

The US government on Friday announced that imports exceeded exports by \$12.20 billion in December, down from \$13.22 billion in November and a record \$17.63 billion in October.

Confidence
"It's a very good figure," said Stephen Codrington, head of the Equities Department of Jardine Fleming (Securities) Co., Ltd. in Tokyo.

"I imagine the markets would be taking it quite favourably" this week, he said.

Codrington said he believed Tokyo market participants are gaining confidence that the US trade imbalance situation is improving.

Koichi Oka, chief customer dealer at Fuji Bank, was optimistic that the dollar would trade firmer this week, ranging between about 130 yen and 133 yen.

"Sentiment is very bullish (on the dollar)," he said.

He was cautious saying, "the last two months (the US trade deficit) may be down, but the

next two months it may be up. We have to be careful."

In New York, on Friday, the trade figures buoyed stock prices, although trading was only moderately active.

Dealers
The Dow Jones industrial average advanced 21.72 to 1983.26, with volume at 177 million shares.

Hong Kong foreign exchange dealers expected the dollar to move within a slightly higher range during the week, but said much depended on the Japanese January trade data to be released tomorrow.

"If the Japanese trade surplus turned out to be around \$2 billion against 4.3 billion a year ago, the dollar could easily breach 132 yen and head for 135 in the near term, possibly during the week, they said.

"I tend to think the dollar has bottomed out, but I am still cautious," said a dealer with a British merchant bank.

Reaction
"It depends on the Federal Reserve being not too loose in its credit policy," he said.

For the week Hong Kong dealers generally expected the

dollar to trade between 129 and 132 yen and between 1.68 and 1.7250 marks.

"Australian" market analysts said they expected a positive reaction to the latest trade figures and that it was possible that interest rates would edge down.

They warned that the US trade situation remained volatile and that the trade figures for the traditionally lower first quarter would be key indicators.

However, the analysts believe that the longer term prospects were improving and that this would be reflected in an upturn in the market by mid-year.

Tunisia to open stock exchange to foreign firms

Plan to attract international investors

TUNIS, Feb 14, (Reuters): Backed by a surge of business confidence since the removal from power of President Habib Bourguiba last November, Tunisia is now planning to attract international investors by opening up its stock market.

Central Bank Governor Ismail Khelil told Reuters foreign companies and international banks would soon be allowed to trade freely on the country's small stock exchange where some 60 state-owned firms would be privatised.

"Our aim is to attract more capital and foreign investment in our companies," he said in an interview at the weekend.

Khelil foresaw few problems in attracting about \$250 million of private investment in 1988 which is needed to develop an aggressive export-oriented industry designed to equip the country for the future when oil production declines.

Confidence

He said there had been a marked return of business confidence since the ageing Bourguiba was replaced by Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, his Prime Minister, on the grounds he was senile.

This had now spread to the international community and was highlighted by a new willingness for Western banks to lend money to investment projects and by the recent decision of US bank Citibank International to set up a branch in Tunisia.

"This is a very direct sign of confidence. At a time when US banks are shying away from the Third World, this is a big step," he said.

Strategy
Domestically, he said an amnesty for those who had evaded tax, or broken foreign exchange regulations, and measures to end bureaucratic bottle-necks had revived the confidence of the business community and spurred economic growth in 1987 of 5.5 per cent.

"Before November the situation had not been very clear, and the political climate was not very good. After November, we took measures to improve the business environment," he said.

He added foreigners had already taken stakes in hotels and textile companies sold off by the state and plans to open up the country's once-heavily protected economy to outside competition would now gather speed.

But the owl-like Khelil, who as Finance Minister under Bourguiba drew up the current economic strategy, ruled out the lifting of foreign exchange controls before 1991 — the end of the present five-year plan.

A man who has won a reputation with international bankers as an astute economist, Khelil stressed time and again the "stage by stage" nature of reforms.

"It is a long process — we have to go carefully. This policy has its price. Many of our companies have been hurt, they were protected before, so we are walking on a tightrope, but this is the only way," he said.

Khelil said one of the main aims of a liberalisation programme sponsored by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank was to make the country's stock exchange more dynamic. Only 47 companies were listed last year.

Active

"We are really trying now to create an active bourse in order to make it one of the main instruments of our privatisation plans. We cannot increase our borrowing beyond certain limits and must attract direct investment," he said.

ment," he said.

Khelil cannot mask his delight with Tunisia's surprisingly good economic performance last year which has won plaudits from IMF experts.

"We have an IMF delegation here at the moment and apparently all the targets were reached last year and they are very happy. They are now considering an extended facility," he said.

The 5.5 per cent economic growth last year compares with negative growth of one per cent in 1986. Although total foreign debt remains high for the country at some \$6 billion, borrowing was also lower than expected at around one billion.

Khelil believes the economy has turned the corner since a severe cash shortage prompted by dwindling oil reserves forced it to turn to the IMF and World Bank for the first time in 1986.

"We are not out of the woods yet... but it was a really good performance in 1987 — the first year of our adjustment programme. We reduced our fiscal deficit, our current account deficit, imported less and improved exports. On all fronts we had very good results," he said.

Iraq to set up major power and industrial projects

BAGHDAD, Feb 14, (Opecna): The Iraqi Minister of Heavy Industries, Abdul Tawab Mullah Huwaisah, has described the country's economy as "sound and strong."

Hestated this at a press briefing here marking the first anniversary of the economic reforms introduced by President Saddam Hussein in agriculture, industry and service sectors to reduce expenditures and streamline the productive process in state-run bodies.

Projects

Huwaisah said his ministry had increased production by 69 per cent in the last quarter of 1987

over the first quarter.

The minister announced the execution of several strategic projects, including a tyre-manufacturing plant with an annual production capacity of one million and a petrochemical factory which would meet the needs of the local manufacturing industry.

Huwaisah noted that other projects included the construction of a fertilizer plant with a production capacity of one million tons per year, an iron and steel plant with an annual output of one million tons of iron sheets a year, and an aluminium plant with a production capacity of 200,000 tons a year.

Due to the country's vast phosphate reserves, two more plants will be constructed to increase phosphate production. The first will have a yearly capacity of one million tons and the second, 370,000 tons, according to the minister.

Cooperation

Referring to cooperation with neighbouring countries in electricity, the minister said that steps were underway to link Iraq and Kuwait through an electric power network, adding that all technical arrangements for connecting the 132-KV lines had been already completed. The aim of the project was to utilize the

spare capacity of the grid and generating stations during peak-load hours.

He said if the Iraqi-Kuwaiti electricity grid was completed, it would eventually be linked up with the power grids of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states.

He stated that Iraq would export 400 million KWh per hour (KWh) to Turkey, adding that technical arrangements between the two countries on the installation of power lines and transforming stations had already been completed.

The 500 MW second stage of the project will have a capacity of three billion KWh.

World Business Summary

Botha calls for belt tightening in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 14, (Reuters): South African President P. W. Botha, facing discontent among white followers over a wage freeze, published newspaper advertisements today calling on his countrymen to tighten their belts. Botha announced sweeping economic reforms including the sale of large government corporations earlier this month and said his government would not increase public sector salaries this year. In the full-page advertisement Botha said a strong economic base was essential to continue cautious political reform of apartheid which his government had initiated. "With a strong economic base, we will be able to go ahead with the social and political reform which we need," he said. "Without it, we don't have the foundation to build on."

Political commentators have said Botha risked upsetting his white supporters by scrapping traditional pay rises at a time when South Africa's annual inflation rate is around 15 per cent.

"We have to tighten our belts. We have to control government expenditure. We have to tackle inflation," said Botha, adding: "we have to exercise self-discipline with our demands and our prices."

The South African economy has suffered a series of setbacks since 1984, when a black uprising against white rule began in Johannesburg and spread across the country. The value of the South African rand, as measured against the dollar, has halved in four years and Western banks have forced the country to accelerate the repayment of its foreign debt. Sanctions against the government's race policies have caused the withdrawal of more than 100 American companies, have seen South African products and raw materials embargoed in many countries and have boosted already high unemployment. Increased speeding on security and the high cost of administering apartheid have added further burdens.

World recession not likely in 1988, says expert

BEIJING, February 14, (Oana-Xinhua): The world economy will develop unstably in the next ten years, with a low growth rate and even the possibility of a recession and economic crisis. This view was expressed by a Chinese expert in a lecture last month in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, according to today's "China Daily." A world economic recession is not likely in 1988, said Huo Xing, Director-General of the Centre for International Studies under the state council.

"My estimate is that with the Americans geared up for a presidential election, there will not be a recession in the United States in the first place," he said. No one will do anything stupid before the election, the outcome of which will be determined largely by economic rather than political issues.

With the world's largest market and huge annual trade volume with Western Europe, the US economy will have a direct bearing on economic stability in the West. The economic situation in Western Europe is very disturbing, with 20 to 30 million people unemployed, he said.

Japan is facing the task of changing course — shifting its emphasis from exploring foreign markets to expanding domestic demand. Burdened with higher prices for manufactured goods, lower prices for primary goods and heavy foreign debt, the Third World countries foresee an even more dismal economic future. "Generally speaking," he noted, "the whole international economic situation is very serious, with fundamental factors pointing to the certainty of a recession."

Some economists and politicians in various countries are studying ways to alleviate the impact of the coming crisis.

Said Huan: "I personally doubt whether it will be as destructive as the depression that lasted from 1929 to 1933. However, I expect it to be worse than the recession in 1982 and 1983." Many economists have considered the stock market crash last October a good thing, which has suppressed the mounting fever of speculation. What is overlooked here is the crash's psychological impact on investors, he noted. During the past three months, the stock market has experienced at least four plunges and surges.

Financier ordered to pay \$7.3m for tax evasion

MIAMI, Feb 14, (Reuters): Millionaire financier Victor Posner was ordered yesterday to pay a total of \$7.3 million for tax evasion, but a federal judge rejected demands that he be sent to prison. Federal prosecutors had urged a jail term for the 69-year-old Posner as a deterrent to others and complained that the sentence announced by Judge Eugene Spellman was too lenient.

Posner, whose personal fortune has been estimated at \$180 million, could have been sentenced to 40 years in prison.

The sentencing announcement in US district court in Miami ended an eight-year legal battle for Posner, a pioneer corporate raider who is facing growing problems in his \$4 billion corporate empire. Spellman ordered Posner to pay \$2.1 million of back taxes and penalties, \$2.1 million in interest, and a criminal fine of \$75,000. He also imposed a five-year term of probation, sentenced Posner to 5,000 hours of community service, and ordered him to contribute at least \$3 million to fund a study of the poor and homeless in South Florida. Posner is the second major Wall Street figure to be sentenced on criminal charges in the past two months. Ivan Boesky, once among the world's most powerful stock speculators, received a three-year prison term in December for his role in Wall Street's insider trading scandal. Posner pleaded no contest in September 1987 to charges that he evaded \$12 million in income taxes by inflating the value of 22 acres of land he donated to a Miami Bible College in the 1970s.

Spellman rejected prosecutors' demands for a prison sentence, saying Posner would have served no more than six to nine months because of his advanced age. He also said Posner could better serve the community by using his enormous wealth for a charitable cause. Posner declined to comment on the sentence, except to say: "I've been involved in charities all my life and I've given millions."

Sino-US trade to grow

BEIJING, February 14, (Xinhua): The trends for Sino-US trade are encouraging for 1988, and US exports to China will grow in the year in response to China's improved foreign exchange position and the lower value of the US dollar vis-a-vis the yuan and the mark, China's Business Weekly reported today. In a dispatch from New York, Roger W. Sullivan, president of the Washington-based National Council for US-China Trade, said that US exports to China have been growing every month, and China's worldwide balance of payments was in a surplus by the middle of 1987 for the first time since 1984.

The total trade volume between the two countries is expected to top \$10 billion for the first time in 1987, he said. Most of the growth was in Chinese exports to the United States, which will be between \$6.5 to 7 billion, up more than 20 per cent over the 1986 record of \$5.2 billion. Led by agricultural sales, US exports to China began to accelerate in late 1986. For the entire year, US exports are expected to reach \$3.5 billion, a 10 per cent increase over 1986. Of China's exports to the United States, textiles and apparel remained predominant, continuing to account only nearly that have become large foreign exchange earners, such as toys, baby carriages, footwear, shellfish, vegetables, household and chemicals, wheat, corn and paper-board, significantly increased investment were established in China in the first nine months of 1988, new US and other foreign investment would continue to concentrate in the manufacturing sector.

The bank views these gains as acceptable considering the volatility of global financial markets during the year.

Net operating income in 1987 was \$14.0 million, compared \$22.8 million in 1986.

This lower figure resulted from a higher interest expense, combined with the reduced operating expenses and recoveries. Operating expenses totalled \$4.1 million, the lowest level since 1983. Recoveries contributed \$3.2 million to net income.

In line with its prudent fiscal and management policies, the bank continued to reduce lending levels.

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.

Passenger air traffic soars 12pc

GENEVA, Feb 14, (UPI): Passenger air traffic rose 12 per cent in 1987 on both international routes and on domestic and foreign flights combined, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said last week.

Member airlines carried 174 million passengers on international flights and 575 million passengers on system-wide routes, IATA said.

Passenger load factors increased four per cent to 67 per cent on foreign flights and by three per cent to 66 per cent on all flights combined, IATA said, while freight business rose 10 per cent and eight per cent respectively.

"1987 was a far better year for traffic growth than forecast by the industry 12 months ago," IATA director general Guenther Eser said in an IATA press release.

Growth
"But we believe growth will be lower this year, not more than six to eight per cent on international scheduled services," he said. "Obviously the key factor is whether the leading industrial economies can stave off the risk of recession."

"The airline industry faces two dangers — declining yields and the need to avoid overcapacity on prime routes. Quite a lot of new aircraft will be introduced over the next year or two and total capacity could outstrip traffic."

IATA said North Atlantic passenger traffic rose 20 per cent in 1987 to around 25 million people, and a meeting will be held in Washington April 27-28 to assess 1988 prospects on those routes.

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local inter-bank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	4	4-3/8
3 months	4-3/16	4-9/16
6 months	4-1/4	4-11/16
1 year	4-9/16	5

US industry tries to grapple with new market environment

NEW YORK, Feb 14, (Reuters): Wall Street insiders say the turmoil in the biggest US brokerage firms is far from over as the industry attempts to grapple with a new market environment and era of austerity.

High-level defections, layoffs and eliminations of entire departments have hit Wall Street since the October 19 stock crash, as about 15,000 jobs disappeared in an industry-wide consolidation.

Rumours of more resignations, takeovers, and layoffs continue to sap morale in the financial district as it attempts to recover from a Black October.

Glut
"From five of the best years the industry has ever seen, we've fallen off a cliff," said one high-ranking industry official. "This is the normal corrective stage after a hedonistic glut."

Nowhere is the strife better illustrated than at Salomon Inc. and First Boston Inc., two of the premier US investment banking concerns. Senior executives at both firms have resigned or been reshuffled following strategic reviews at the firms this month as infighting has reached a new peak on Wall Street.

"All the firms are going through a strategic restructuring process, and whenever you have that happen you get some bruised egos," said Brenda McCoy of PaineWebber Group Inc.

"If you get rid of Wasserstein

and Perella, and you get rid of all the people that don't want to be there, you get rid of the people that were involved in the upswing," said one analyst.

Meanwhile, Salomon Inc., in what was viewed as a response to takeover threats and concern over a possible coup to unseat chairman John Gutfreund, has restructured its top management.

Salomon added four more top officials to the office of chairman, including Jay Higgins, head of investment banking; John Merriweather, head of fixed-income; Stanley Shopkorn, head of equity trading; and James Massey, head of sales.

At the same time, chief financial officer Gerald Rosenfeld resigned. While Rosenfeld said he was leaving for personal reasons, his departure raised speculation that the firm had gone through a shakeup.

Moves
Analysts said moves instituted by Gutfreund were calculated to cement his position. But they could also lead to disharmony and complicate decision-making.

"If this firm doesn't get back on track this year, there's going to be more pressure on him (Gutfreund)," said Prudential-Bache analyst Larry Eckenfelder, referring to falling profits at the firm, which expanded rapidly in the early 1980s.

Lucrative
Former co-heads of Investment Banking Joseph Perella and Bruce Wasserstein started their own firm, taking a number of First Boston professionals with them. The departure of the two high-profile executives was seen as damaging to the firm's lucrative mergers and acquisitions business. But analysts say infighting may now diminish.

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"If you get rid of Wasserstein

US agricultural exports to Hong Kong up

HONG KONG, Feb 14, (Xinhua): Hong Kong's agricultural imports from the United States in 1987 are estimated to have increased by 35 per cent to \$534 million according to a news release issued at a press conference here yesterday.

Hong Kong has become one of the major customers for agricultural products, said US Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng at the press conference, who made a stopover here after a Southeast Asian tour.

Based on January through October trade data published by the Hong Kong government, Hong Kong's purchases have

grown for almost every major category.

Significant gains were recorded in rice, cotton, milk, grapefruit, ice cream, apples, tobacco and poultry.

Out of 24 major items, only fresh table grapes and cattle hides declined by 10 and 53 per cent respectively.

Tendency
The reasons for the greater tendency to "buy American products could be a result of a more aggressive attitude on the part of US exporters and on their more competitive pricing.

Besides, a more progressive

attitude is also in evidence among buyers, the release says.

In addition, for food products, the growing number of supermarkets and convenience stores, along with changing eating habits and patterns of restaurants and increased affluence among the Chinese population, are significant factors.

During the first ten months of 1987, Hong Kong's food products from the United States accounted for 47 per cent, or 1,279 million Hong Kong dollars, of the region's total food imports, according to a data released by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	1.020	1.020	1.020	1.020	85000	8
GULF BANK	0.380	0.370	0.375	0.370	560000	24
COMMERCIAL BK	0.255	0.250	0.255	0.250	130000	6
AMLI BANK	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	50000	1
B.K.M.E.	0.305	---	---	---	---	---
K.R.E.S.	0.395	0.380	0.390	0.380	220520	8
BURGAM BANK	0.275	0.265	0.265	0.265	10000	1
K.F.HOUSE	0.495	0.490	0.490	0.490	40000	3
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
KUT INV. CO.	0.204	---	---	---	---	---
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	---	---	---	---	---
K.I.I.C.	0.174	0.170	0.170	0.170	60000	3
COM.FACILITIES	0.430	0.435	0.435	0.430	977690	18
AMLIAN INV.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
I.F.A.	0.114	---	---	---	---	---
INV. PEARL KUT	0.106	---	---	---	---	---
INSURANCE SECTOR						
KUT INSURANCE	0.730	---	---	---	---	---
SULF INSURANCE	0.370	---	---	---	---	---
AMLIAN INS. CO.	0.550	---	---	---	---	---
MARSA INS. CO.	0.490	---	---	---	---	---
REAL ESTATE SECTOR						
KUT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	360000	13
UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	0.116	---	---	---	---	---
MAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.234	0.230	0.230	0.230	20000	1
SALIHAN R.E.	0.070	---	---	---	---	---
KUT PROJECTS	0.094	---	---	---	---	---
KUT R.E.I.COM	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
NAT IND. CO.	0.580	---	---	---	---	---
KUT M.P. IND.	0.255	---	---	---	---	---
KUT CEMENT CO.	0.238	---	---	---	---	---
REF. IND. CO.	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	10000	1
N.A.M.T.CO.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
SULF CABLE	1.030	---	---	---	---	---
K.P.H.IND. CO.	0.164	---	---	---	---	---
CONT.MARINE	0.350	---	---	---	---	---
K.SH.REP.CO	0.046	---	---	---	---	---
SERVICES SECTOR						
OVERLAND TRANS	0.079	0.081	0.081	0.081	40000	1
K.W.C.CO.	0.218	---	---	---	---	---
KUT HOTELS CO.	0.168	---	---	---	---	---
P.WAREHOUSING	0.166	---	---	---	---	---
COM.MKT.CMPX.	0.020	---	---	---	---	---
MOBILE TELE.	0.385	0.380	0.385	0.380	950000	22
KUT COMPUTER	0.190	---	---	---	---	---
FOOD SECTOR						
LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.250	---	---	---	---	---
UNITO FISHERIES	0.138	---	---	---	---	---
UNITO POULTRY	0.240	---	---	---	---	---
KUT FOODS	0.290	---	---	---	---	---
AGRI.FOOD PRO.	0.150	---	---	---	---	---
NON-KUT SECTOR						
BIN.INTER.BK	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.073	1002138	6
BIN.M.EAST.BK	0.049	---	---	---	---	---
UNITO GULF BK	0.050	---	---	---	---	---
COAST INVEST.	0.092	0.091	0.091	0.091	440000	5
A.G.I.W.CORP	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	80000	1
FIRST GULF BK	0.870	---	---	---	---	---
B.K.I.G.	0.093	---	---	---	---	---

KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE

COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
FINANCIAL SECTOR						
PEARL INV. CO.	0.098	---	---	---	---	---
GULF INV. CO.	0.041	---	---	---	---	---
GULF INTL INS	0.009	---	---	---	---	---
ARAB INT CO.	0.055	---	---	---	---	---
SHARJAH INS	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
SULF UNION INS	0.055	---	---	---	---	---
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR						
B-GULF MEDICAL	0.015	---	---	---	---	---
C-K.K.WHITTE CRMT	0.016	---	---	---	---	---
B-AJMAN CEMENT	0.007	---	---	---	---	---
E-SALAHAN CEMENT	0.006	---	---	---	---	---
F-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.007	---	---	---	---	---
G-GULF CEMENT	0.014	---	---	---	---	---
N-UNM QATIAIN	0.020	---	---	---	---	---

KD deposit rates firm

KUWAITI dinar deposit rates firmed slightly yesterday in the fixed periods after the Central Bank took three-month deposits at 4 3/8 per cent.

But dealers said ample liquidity kept the short rates low in quiet trading.

Overnight funds traded at one per cent, while spot-next was quoted at 2 1/2, 1 1/2 per cent from two per cent levels on Saturday.

After the Central Bank intervention, one-month firmed to 4 1/4, four per cent from Saturday's 4 1/8, 3 7/8 per cent.

Three-month was bid 1/8 point higher at 4 1/2, 1/4 per cent while six-month and one-year were up to 1/8 point higher at 4 11/16, 7/16 per cent and 5 1/8, 4/8 per cent, respectively.

The Central Bank dinar

India buys

more diesel

to help save

crop

NEW DELHI, Feb 14, (Xinhua): India has purchased 50,000 tons of high speed diesel to help save the standing wheat crop due to lack of winter rains.

According to local press, the continued absence of rains had resulted in an abnormal rise in high speed diesel consumption.

New Delhi also decided to defer till June the routine shutdown of the refineries as part of the strategy to maximize domestic output of high speed diesel.

Urgent steps are also being taken to maximise loading of wagons for supply to the high consumption centres in the north-western region.

Official sources believed that as a result of these measures, coupled with the anticipated arrival of 250,000 tons of high speed diesel from the Soviet Union, there would be no difficulty in meeting the vastly increased demand.

The government had planned for substantially higher production for the current spring crop season this year to make up for the huge losses during the last autumn season.

Agriculture ministry sources concede that if it does not rain in the next few days, the spring crop output would be affected.

According to official estimates, the country may register a loss of 10-15 million tons of foodgrain for fiscal 1987-88 ending March 31 as compared to the previous year's production of some 150 million tons.

AMMAN

AL HIMME MINERALS	OPNG	CLSG
AL-HISER EXCHANGE	0.79	0.79
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.33	1.34
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	1.95	1.95
ARAB BANK	121.0120.5	---
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	4.56	4.55
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.47	1.48
ARAB INSURANCE	1.01	1.00
ARAB INT. INV/TRAN.	---	---
ARAB INT. UNION INS	0.95	0.96
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.53	0.58
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	2.10	2.09
ARAB PAPER COM/IND	0.32	0.32
ARAB PHARMA/MANF.	2.16	2.16
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	0.76	0.75
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	16.30	16.40
BELTUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	27.50	27.76
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	0.40	0.40
DAR ALDAMA DV/INV.	1.55	1.60
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.44	0.44
DEVELOP/INVEST/FAS.	0.63	0.62
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.64	0.63
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.65
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.30	1.30
GENERAL MINING	1.50	1.50
HOLY LAND INS.	1.15	1.20
IND./MATCH JEMCO	0.75	0.75
INDSTR. DEVLPT BKS	1.28	1.29
INDSTR./COM/AGR.	1.51	1.53
INDUSTRIAL INVEST	---	---
INTERMED/PETRO/CH	1.45	1.44
INTERM.COM/INV	0.64	0.64
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.96	0.97
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64
J.PRESS FOUNDATION	3.50	3.20
JERUSALEM INS.	1.28	1.28
JOR TOBACCO/CTGARET	15.50	13.50
JOR CEMENT FACT.	1.07	1.06
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.06	1.06
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.0125.05	---
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.48	1.48
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	1.07	1.07
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.50	2.50
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	1.80	1.87
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20

Debt relief not the correct answer to debt crisis, says Morse

LONDON, Feb 14, (UPI): The chairman of Lloyds Bank, speaking at a conference on Latin America, said yesterday debt relief is not the correct answer to the international debt crisis.

Sir Jeremy Morse said that despite pressures for a quick solution, progress in resolving the area's debt problem is slow and the future remains one of inching forward with the compromise strategy of economic restructuring put forward in 1985 by US Treasury Secretary James A. Baker.

Mauricio Garcia-Araujo, President of Venezuela's Central Bank, also said there were "no magic formulas" to the debt situation. He said the goal of Latin American countries must be one of servicing their debt while at the same time achieving a reasonable rate of economic growth.

Debt
Latin America's total debt in 1987 surpassed \$400 billion. The region's countries had to cut back development and consumption in order to try to meet the payments. And international

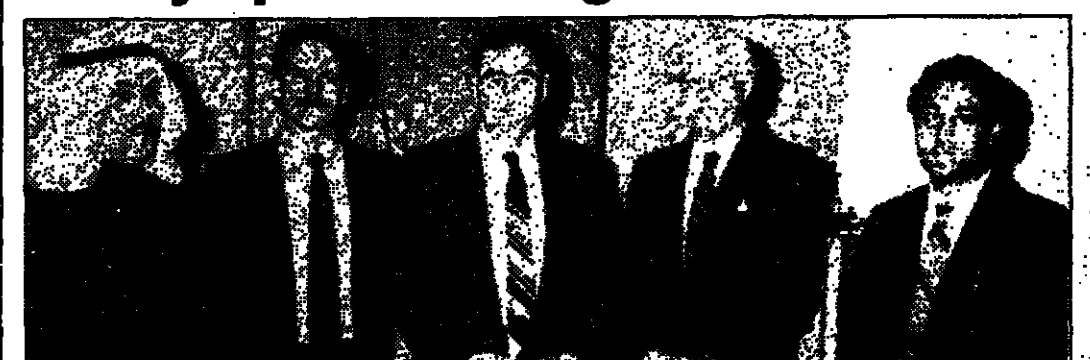
banks are now caught with big loans outstanding that some experts believe governments will never repay in full. Banks in turn have sought to avoid making new loans to the region.

Morse said "some debt relief may be achieved indirectly through debt conversion but is not likely to occur directly, as far as I can see, through either default or forgiveness. And it is not a constructive element in the resolution of the problem, since it undermines the will for structural change and militates against a return to credit worthiness."

David Suratgar, director of the Morgan Grenfell Investment Bank, said in his opinion the Baker plan has already failed. He said the debt situation is "worse than before" and will only get better when the governments of the major industrialized nations step in and establish a framework to solve it.

Morse said "Feb 19 is the deadline on the Mexican bond scheme and I'm not going to say more because it is a market situation."

Envoy opens management seminar



The picture shows from (left to right), Dr M. Marouf, Co-Chairman of Diyar United, Mr Mark Galonski, Marketing Manager of Kurtz and Steel, Dr Keith Steel, Vice President of Kurtz and Steel, His Excellency the Canadian Ambassador, Mr David McCracken, and Mr. I. Bhowmick, Sales and Marketing Manager of Diyar United.



A view of the participants.

Diyar United Trading and Contracting Company (a part of the Al-Wazzan group of companies) recently held a seminar on computer-based Maintenance Management and Information System at the Regency Palace Hotel on February 8 and 9, 1988.

The seminar was inaugurated by His Excellency the Ambassador of Canada to Kuwait and was attended on each day by a number of professionals from the Private and Public Sector.

Presentations at the seminar were made by a visiting delegation

from a Canadian software company — KURTZ AND STEEL LIMITED — and were centred around their Maintenance Management software packages in the areas of Daily Maintenance, Turnaround Scheduling and Materials Management applications.

The General Manager of DIYAR UNITED, Mr Ismail Mustafa, spoke about DIYAR's role in supplying systems and support for these products and introduced the software represen-

tatives. Dr Keith Steel, Vice President of Kurtz and Steel Limited, introduced their company and described the current installations of their system in Kuwait.

Product demonstrations and discussions were provided by Product

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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SALWA, Area 8, Plot 100, behind co-operative and clinic, first floor of a villa, 4 bedrooms, sitting room and dining room, large lounge, kitchen, 3 bathrooms, fully carpeted with AC. Tele. 5611515, 5623478.

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(AT3-40995-3)

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Cars

MERCEDES 200, model 86, manual, black colour, right hand drive, A/C, automatic window, excellent condition. Best offer. Tel. Javald, 2546022, 2546213, 2546413, 8 am - 2 pm.

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Cressida GL late 82, fully automatic, handled by businessman, must be seen, metallic blue, in excellent condition. KD 1250 ono cash. Tele. 4849178, 7 am - 2 pm.

(AT3-41003-3)

PEUGEOT 505, 84 model, registered 7/85. One owner, one driver, 48,000 km 5 gear manual, excellent A/C, condition like new. Tele. Pongracz, 5381001-313-off.

4742000-200 res.

(AT1-40907-3)

DODGE Aries 2.2 1981, manual gearbox, insured till 89, used as a second car. Owner leaving Kuwait. KD450 ono. Tele. Neil, 3727689/90/91 ext. 207.

(AT3-41006-3)

G.M.C. "Jimmy" 1979, fully automatic, full-time 4x4, KD700, Tele. Mr. Rudolf Doorn, 2411499, 5752675.

(AT6-40948-6)

MASARATI Quattro Porte 1982, manual transmission, blue metallic, 28000 kms, in excellent condition. KD4500 negotiable. Tele. Adil, 5511608/4710187 anytime.

(AT3-40987-3)

SAAB 1984, fully automatic, dark green, 900 GLE. Registered and insured upto Jan 89, in very good condition. KD1100 cash. Tele. Mousa, 2429612, 2422086, 7.30 - 9 am, 3 - 4 pm only.

(AT3-40993-2)

PEUGEOT 505, family station wagon, 1986 model, A/C, radio/tape, five speed. Insurance till April 89, first owner, excellent condition. KD2,300. Tele. Francis, off. 5312000 ext. 29, after 2 pm 5386823.

(AT2-40979-3)

MGB Tourer 1967, a collectors car, fantastic opportunity to buy a fast appreciating asset. Very good condition. Tele. Harry, 9021311, 5654368, 9 am - 9 pm.

(AT3-40987-3)

Furniture

SOFA set 2x3 seater, 4 seater. Only 3 months used. Tele. Amira, 5652943, 8 am - 12 pm.

(AT1-40964-3)

HIGH quality French made cupboards (3 wardrobes), desk and other bedroom furniture. Tele. Mrs. Schut, 5725294, after 4 pm.

(AT2-40985-2)

Miscellaneous

DUNLOPILLO double bed KD25, cooker with oven KD18, large table KD12. Tele. 2547138.

(AT2-40986-2)

PETROF upright piano in excellent condition. KD 425. Tele. 3948725.

(AT2-40983-3)

MISCELLANEOUS

Available to give piano lessons. Tele. 2615321.

(AT3-TM-3)

SITUATIONS

Wanted

MAID, Filipino, with 2-1/2 years experience and a transferable visa, looking for a job with an American family. Tele. Virgie, 5643317, 8.30 am - 12.30 pm.

(AT2-40982-3)

MAID for Arabic family. Contact personally, Sulaibikhat, Qata No. 6, Block 56, House No. 34, behind co-op society. Tele. 5553280.

(AT1-40973-3)

Vacant

REQUIRED from Ramada Al Salam Hotel to Daiya Super Market. Reliable transport only: 7.30 am and 4.30 pm. Tele. Christopher, 4835344 room 161.

(AT3-40984-2)

SERVICES

Transport

REQUIRED from Sabahiya to Shuwaikh behind Mercedes Benz garage, for a lady, mornings only, office time 7.30 am. Tele. 4843627, 4838617.

(AT3-40992-2)

RELIABLE transport required from Fahaheel to Shuwaikh. Timing 8 am and back at 7 pm. Tele. Regina, 4831813/4.

(AT1-40966-3)

LOST

RED purse containing civil ID card, Shaoun card, auto card and some money lost near Cinema Firdous. Reward: keep the money. Tele. Imtiaz Ali Mughali, 4812155, 4818582, 7.30 am - 12.30 pm, 3 - 6 pm.

(AT2-40977-2)

PASSPORT No. AK-695034, Mohd Arshad Ali Mohammad, Pakistani, in the Sulaibikhat area. Tele. 4872872.

(AT3-41002-2)

BRIEFCASE containing certificates, personal documents, bank passbooks, in the name of Petra Perumal. Reward offered. Finder please Tele. Mr. Chennan, 2405308/2405309.

(AT3-41001-2)

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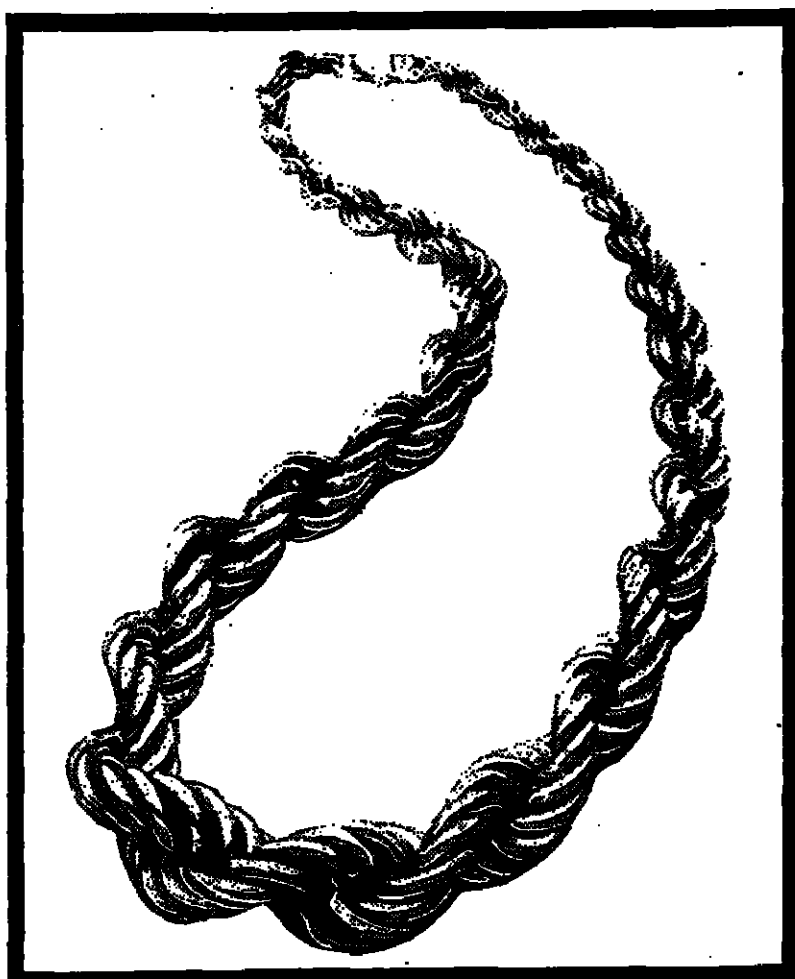
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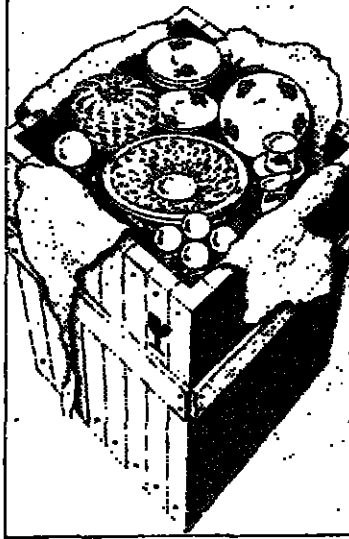
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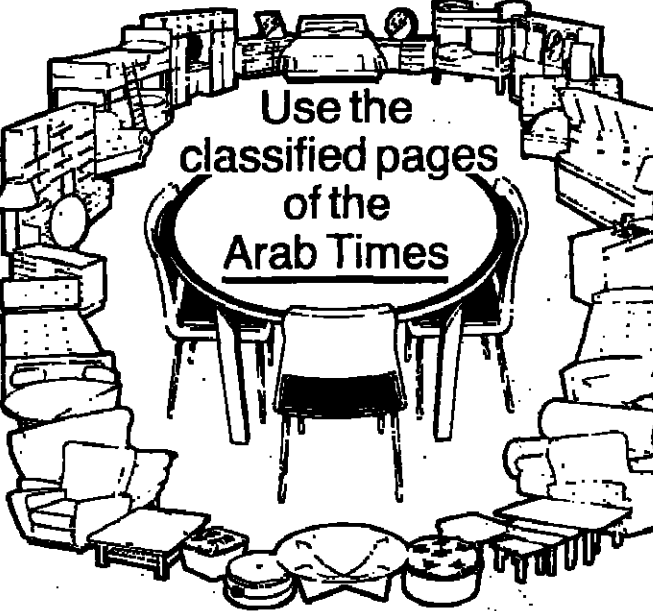
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Lawson strikes two early blows

MELBOURNE, Feb. 14, (Reuters): Former Australian test paceman Geoff Lawson struck two early blows in an effort to frustrate Victoria's push for victory over New South Wales in their Sheffield Shield match today.

Victoria were hoping to add quickly to their first innings lead of 124 on the third day. But Lawson removed both batsmen at the start of their second innings with only 11 runs on the board.

By the close, however, Victoria in 109 for three with Jamie Siddons 44 not out, had extended their lead to 233.

Earlier, New South Wales hit 79 in reply to Victoria's first innings total of 403.

Lawson removed Gary Watts first ball when he trapped him leg before and then dismissed Dave Whatmore, also leg before, 17 balls later.

The other Victoria batsman out was Warren Ayres who was caught by John Dyson off Greg Matthews for 28.

New South Wales avoided the blow on with the help of responsible batting by Gavin Robertson who hit 38 and helped add 32 for the final wicket.

SPORTS

1988 Winter Olympics

Calgary games open in splendour

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb 14, (AP): The Winter Olympics opened with a flash of fire, a blaze of colour and a chilly wind straight from the Yukon.

Some 1,600 athletes representing a record 57 countries — from the lone cross-country skier from Fiji to the 322-member US contingent — marched into McMahon Stadium on an overcast afternoon to launch the 16-day Games, the biggest, longest and most lavish ever.

"The dream has become a reality," declared Bill Pratt, president of the Calgary Olympic Organising Committee, overseeing the 1 billion Canadian dollar (\$800 million), eight-year

project.

Governor-general Jeanne Sauve, Canada's head of state, officially declared the Games open. But she flubbed her lines.

She opened the "15th Olympic Games" rather than the "15th Olympic Winter Games." Her slip went unnoticed by the 60,000 spectators shivering under the white, red, blue, green and black capes that formed a backdrop of maple leaves and Olympic rings for the estimated 2 billion television viewers worldwide.

Then to chants and the beat of Indian drums, Ken Read and Cathy Priestner carried the Olympic flame into the stadium as the crowd and 88 of the 6,520

runners who carried the torch across Canada looked on.

The former Olympians handed the torch to 12-year-old Robyn Perry, a Calgary seventh-grader and novice figure skater chosen to represent the youth of Canada — a selection kept secret until that moment.

Ran up

Dressed in a red snow suit, she ran up the steps to the huge cauldron at one end of the stadium, dipped the torch to the crowd, then stood on her tiptoes and lit the Olympic flame.

A loud roar went up from the crowd as the flames leaped from the cauldron, which will burn until extinguished at the closing ceremony on Feb 28.

The Snowbirds of the Royal Canadian Air Force streaked overhead in nine jet planes as the cauldron was electronically hoisted into the air.

Warmth

Before the ceremonies started, clusters of ticket holders not ready to face the cold milled around under cover, sipping hot drinks. Vendors in bright yellow jumpsuits walked through the stands, dispensing hot chocolate from black boxes on their backs.

The temperature was minus 3 degrees C (27 degrees F) when the pageant began. It was minus 6 degrees C (21 degrees F) when it

ended two hours later.

"It'll be worth it if I get to see the hockey team," said John Fife, 11, of Calgary, who was swathed from head to toe in fur and goose-down. "I've been looking forward to this for weeks."

Hundreds of balloons in the Olympic colours of blue, red, green, black and yellow soared into the sky.

But one didn't make it. A huge balloon shaped as a purple, blue and green mountain range in the centre of the stadium sprang a leak along the north peaks and quickly deflated, despite the best efforts of 75 jumpsuit-clad volunteers.

Indians on horseback, rodeo trick riders and dashing royal Canadian mounties paraded before the crowd.

Blasted

Rock and country music blasted through the stadium, which held a dazzling array of 6,000 dancers, singers and other performers, dressed in brilliantly coloured costumes designed to withstand freezing cold.

Pop singer Gordon Lightfoot sang "Good to be Alberta bound" as hundreds of square dancers two-stepped on centre stage and the athletes swayed, clapped and stomped their feet.

Outside the stadium, crowds holding bunches of balloons lined the route of the Olympic torch bearers, who ended the 89-day, 17,850-kilometre (11,185-mile) cross-country relay with the lighting of the Olympic flame.

Ten Canadians, all former Olympians, carried in the Olympic flag, first presented in 1914 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games. As the flag reached the top of the mast, 1,000 pigeons were set free, symbolic messengers to notify the world that the Games have begun.

The birds headed east toward Brooks, Alberta, 105 kilometres (67 miles) away, where the owners of the first three to return will receive gold, silver and bronze medals.

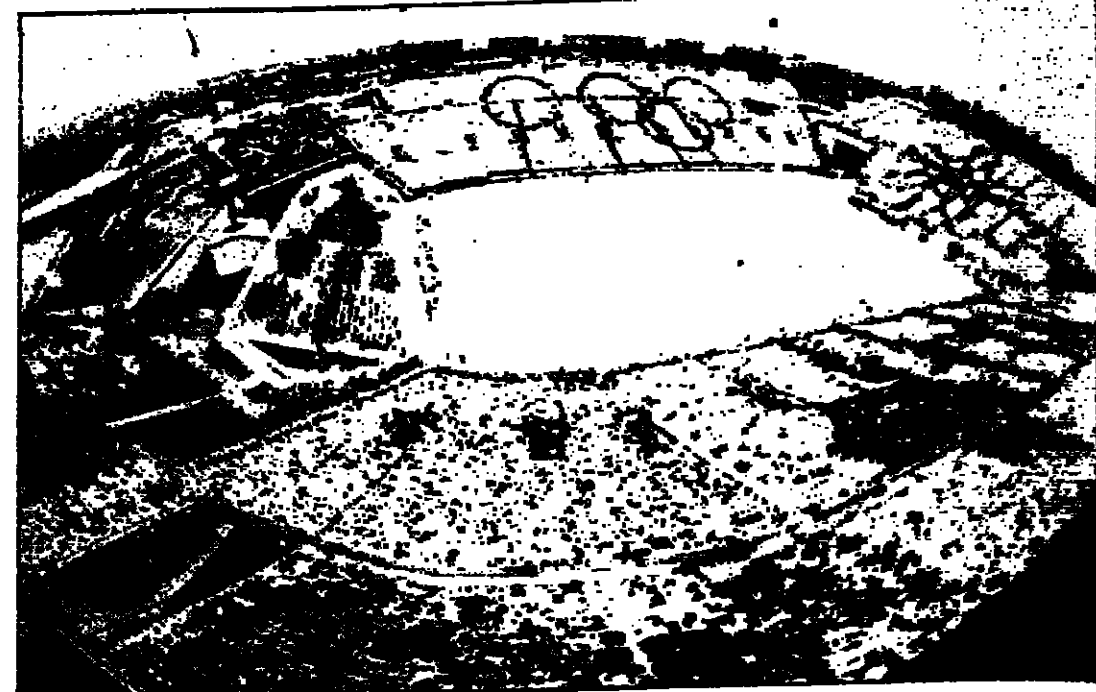
Historic

The eight-member team from Greece, the historic home of the Olympics, led the parade of nations.

Prince Albert carried the flag at the head of Monaco's team. He races in the two-man bobsled event and also belongs to the International Olympic Committee.

Most of the countries chose down parkas and ski caps for the occasion.

But the Canadians dressed in bright red overcoats with white shoulder fringe and white cowboy hats. The Soviets wore fur



A super wide angle view shows all of McMahon Stadium. (Reuter wirephoto)

and red scarves, and the New Zealand team sported short leather jackets and motoring caps. The French and Americans wore long overcoats. The team from the Virgin Islands topped their parkas with flower-laden straw hats.

First medal

CANMORE, Alberta, Feb 14, (AP): Vida Ventene of the Soviet Union won the first gold medal of the Winter Olympics by winning the women's 10-kilometre cross-country ski race.

Raisa Smetanina of the Soviet Union was second and Marjo Matikainen of Finland was third.



The skyline of Calgary with the Saddledome in the foreground is lit by a fireworks display. (Reuter wirephoto)

Slip of tongue

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb 14, (AP): Canada's governor-general erred yesterday while reading the 13-word official opening for the Winter Olympics.

Jeanne Sauve, Canada's head of state, was supposed to say: "I declare open the games of Calgary celebrating the 15th Olympic Winter Games," as officially called for in the Olympic charter. But she dropped the "winter."

No matter. The games still were under way.

Sauve's omission marked the second Olympics in a row with a fluffed line in the official opening. In Los Angeles in 1984, US President Ronald Reagan read: "I declare the games of Los Angeles celebrating the 23rd Olympiad of the modern era open."

The word "open" should have gone after "declare."

Competition for junior archers

THE Kuwait Archery Federation held a competition for the junior and cadet divisions and the 24 young competitors shot in ideal weather conditions on Friday.

Thirty, 40 and 50 metres were shot in the junior boys A division. It was the first time in Kuwait for archers to shoot these distances in that category.

Unni Krishnan was first with a score of 532. Ezz Al Arab second with 405 and Dawood Esmail third scoring 383. Basam Malik being the only competitor in his division scored a total of 207 points over 30 and 40 metres.

Entries

In the junior girls division Mahwash Malik came first scoring 119. In the junior boys C division newcomer to the sport Yusuf Al Sabah was the winner scoring 66 over 30 metres.

The cadet A division had the largest number of entries and these young boys produced some excellent scores. Mishal Mishri came first shooting over 3 distances — 20, 15 and 10 metres, with a score of 690.

Second was Nader Zaki and third Fahd Al Asfour.

15 and 10 metres were shot in the cadet girls B division. Sheyna Jallad was the winner with a very good score of 293. Upanasa Galhota second with 259 and little Reem Malik third.

Yusuf Al Arab also shooting on 15 and 10 metres won in his division scoring 473. Munira Al Asfour shooting in the cadet girls C division scored a brilliant 190 over 10 metres this being her very first competition.

Shooting

Her brother, Jasim Al Asfour was the winner in his division scoring 200 also shooting over 10 metres.

Mohammed M. Al Shaheen, managing director of the Hunting and Equestrian Club presented the prizes. The Kuwait Archery Federation shall hold its next competition on the Feb 25 and 26 for senior archers. If you would like to try archery please ring 4739199 ext 48/31 or 4739721.

Americans and Soviets post easy hockey victories

West Germany upset Czechoslovakia

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb 14, (AP): The upset bug arrived quickly at the Winter Olympics as West Germany knocked off Czechoslovakia in the first game of the hockey tournament. The Americans and the powerful Soviets posted easy victories.

Czechoslovakia, the 1984 silver medalist, bowed 2-1 on Peter Schiller's goal with 7:01 to play in a game that began before the opening ceremonies were over.

The Soviet Union, which won the gold medal four years ago and now seeks its seventh title in nine Olympics, overcame a sluggish start to defeat Norway 5-0. The United States built a big early lead and coasted to a 10-6 triumph over Austria.

Dark horse

Although the sixth-seeded West Germans were viewed as a dark horse medal candidate in the 16-day, 42-game tournament, third-seeded Czechoslovakia and the No.2 Soviets were the favourites in the "B" pool.

The West Germans and seventh-seeded United States were forecast to fight it out for the pool's third and final spot in the medal round.

In the "A" pool today, top-seeded Sweden plays France.

Poland meets Canada and Switzerland faces Finland.

Czechoslovak coach Jan Starsi said his team lost because it didn't play hard enough.

"Despite getting the first goal in the first period, (Czechoslovakia) didn't put in the effort," he said. "The other team won because of a bigger heart."

First time

"You can't ask for anything better than to beat the six-time world champions in the very first game," West German coach Xaver Unsinn said.

Sixth-seeded West Germany looked overmatched early, as Czechoslovakia swarmed around West German goalie Karl Friesen. The Germans then began capitalising on their size advantage.

Czechoslovakia, which also lost to West Germany in December's Izvestia tournament in Moscow, went ahead 1-0 on a power-play goal by Jiri Hrdina, but couldn't solve Friesen the rest of the way. He made 30 saves.

West Germany tied the game in the second period on Helmut Steiger's slap shot. Schiller then held off a defenceman and backhanded the puck past goalie Jaromir Sindel.

Czechoslovakia fell despite superb goaltending from Sindel, who made 31 saves in place of injured Dominik Hasek.

It took the Soviets longer than expected to shake off Norway, the 10th seed.

"There is always a great amount of tension and finding your own game during any first game," Soviet assistant coach Igor Dmitriyev said.

Playing in the corral, where seats close to the ice prevented expansion of the rink to international dimensions, the Soviets couldn't exploit their superior skating ability and wide-open style in the opening period. Most of the Olympic hockey games are being played in the newer saddle-dome.

Domination

But goals by Alexei Gusarov and Alexander Mogilyov within 56 seconds early in the second period began the Soviets' domination. Vladimir Krutov, Andrei Khomutov and Igor Stepanov also scored as the Soviets outshot Norway 30-12.

"You have to be realistic because the Norwegian team has the only true amateurs in the hockey tournament," Norway assistant coach Tore Jobs said.

"These players work eight hours a day and play hockey in the evenings."

Sergei Mylnikov was the Soviet goalie. Regular starter Evgeny Beloshukhin is hobbled by a slight leg injury.

Corey Milten, a veteran of the 1984 US team, scored two goals and had two assists against Austria.

Lead

Goals by Lane MacDonald and Milten gave the Americans a 2-0 lead. The Austrians got a power-play goal from Kurt Harand, but Craig Janney and Allen Bourbeau then scored 84 seconds apart for the Americans in the second period. Scott Fusco and Brian Leitch scored later in the period for a 6-1 lead.

Millen, Dave Snuggard, Scott Young and Jim Johansson scored third-period goals for the United States, while Werner Kerth scored two goals and Koren, Robin Sadler and Ed Lebler added one each for Austria.

The ice here is cleaner and softer and Calgary's high altitude of 1,100 meters offers dry, cold air

Fast, tight turns and luck of draw could decide gold

CALGARY, Feb 14, (Reuter): Fast, tight turns and the luck of the draw will be key factors as the Olympic speed skating competition is launched today by the swiftest competition on offer — the men's 500 metres.

The sparkling new indoor Olympic Oval, with its carefully layered ice and climate-controlled comfort, is rated the world's fastest track and an all-out assault on world records is anticipated.

First

American Nick Thometz will be the first record-holder tested. Thometz set the standard of 36.55 seconds last March indoors at Heerenveen.

But skaters say the oval, built at a cost of \$38.9 million is faster than the Dutch ice palace, where eight of the sport's 11 records were set prior to the arrival of the Calgary arena.

The ice here is cleaner and softer and Calgary's high altitude of 1,100 meters offers dry, cold air

that keeps the fast track from becoming too wet.

With speeds increased, cornering becomes more difficult, and with lanes four metres wide rather than 4-1/2 metres, most skaters are loathe to start on the outside lane.

Skaters race in pairs, changing lanes halfway through to negate any advantage. But in these high-speed chases, finishing in the inside lane, or "last inner," presents special problems.

Pushes

Centrifugal force pushes the sprinting skater to the outside. The steps must come faster and technique becomes crucial to avoid drifting too wide and interfering with the other skater — grounds for disqualification.

There is only one chance for each skater so the luck of the draw could prove critical. Thometz, a fine technical skater who set his record with a "last inner" run, has been slowed

by a bout of flu and a chronic blood disorder but cannot be discounted with Olympic gold on the line.

Other contenders include his compatriot Dan Jansen, who won the world sprint championship last weekend. Olympic champion Sergei Fokitshev of the Soviet Union. Akira Kuroiwa of Japan and Ki-Tae Bae of South Korea, whose technique could enable him to overcome the dreaded "last inner."

Survived

Also expected to compete is Soviet world champion Nikolai Gulyayev, who arrived here at the centre of a scandal over the sale of steroids to a Norwegian skater.

Gulyayev has survived calls from Norwegian sports officials that he be barred from the games and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday gave him final clearance to compete. But the Russian's best chance for gold is in the 1,500 metres.

Navratilova to meet Shriver in final

DALLAS, Feb 14, (AP): Top-seeded Martina Navratilova struggled to a 1-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Zina Garrison last night in the second semifinal match of the Virginia Slims of Dallas women's tennis tournament.

Navratilova, the second-ranked player in the world, will meet second-seeded Pam Shriver in today's final, with \$50,000 going to the winner.

Shriver overcame a hesitant start to give a superb exhibition of serve and volley play to take the title after a final spanning two hours.

Domination

Mecir started the match in confident form, breaking the Swede in his second service game and dominating the early play from the back of the court.

The cool-tempered Czechoslovak had moved into a 5-3 lead with some pinpoint forehands from the baseline before Edberg suddenly changed the tempo of the match to battle back to 5-5.

Edberg then began to assert control with some effective approach shots backed by some superbly disguised volleys at the net and took the tiebreak 7-5.

The normally taciturn Mecir showed obvious frustration at some dubious line calls in the second set. After dropping his serve to go 3-2 down, his game crumbled and Edberg finished off the set 6-2 in half an hour.

Manner

The manner in which Edberg changed the pace of the game, rushing into the net at every opportunity, gave the impression he was in a hurry to finish the job and the Swede admitted afterwards the thought of missing an early-evening flight to the United States had spurred him on.

Unbeaten Navratilova, who is now unbeaten in 19 career matches against Garrison, has won seven of the last nine Dallas tournaments. She did not play last year. Defending champion Chris Evert did not enter this year's tournament.

Shriver, ranked fourth in the world but who has lost 31 of 34 career matches against Navratilova, enters today's final in a confident mood.

"I don't think Martina is as confident as she once was," Shriver said. "I've seen her quotes in the newspapers. Her play is just not where she wants it."

Garrison's acrobatic shot-making earned her the first set, but Navratilova regained her composure, breaking Garrison's serve in the fourth game to make a 3-1 lead.

With Navratilova ahead 5-3 in the second set, Garrison was working toward a service break in the ninth game. Ahead 40-30, Navratilova hit a lob close to the sideline which appeared to be out. Garrison netted the return, giving Navratilova the set.

Garrison protested, throwing her racket and appealing to the linesman. She was assessed a code violation by umpire Bill Kempfer for unsportsmanlike

Bridge

HUBARA club bridge game results played on Saturday:

1. Nabil Akel & Laila Muthwaite
2. Sharon & Abdullah
3. Drexler & Karkaji

E/W
1. Mukherjee & Chawdhari
2. Rafai & Afaf
3. Katara & Rasm

SPORTS BRIEFS

Peau beats Lake

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Feb 14, (AP): Heavyweight boxer Howard Lake of the United States left today with a healthy respect for the power of local fighter Jimmy Peau after their brief encounter in Palmerston North.

Peau demolished Lake in 75 seconds using a lightning short left hook that left the US Armed Services champion spread-eagled on the canvas.

Usha ranked

NEW DELHI, Feb 14, (Xinhua): India's sprint queen P.T. Usha was ranked 20th in the all-time best list of 400-metre hurdles in the world, "Indian Express" reported yesterday.

Cash beaten

ABERDEEN, Scotland, Feb 14, (AP): Wimbledon champion Pat Cash was beaten in two straight sets by South African-born American Kevin Curren in a 50,000-pound winner-take-all exhibition tennis match last night.

Sweden wins

TOKYO, Feb 14, (AP): Mikael Berg, a member of the Swedish team at the 1982-1983 European World Cup, beat Carlos Martinez of Argentina in the finals of a dual slalom event today and won the 5 million yen (\$38,800) Arj Peugeot Cup.

It was the fifth of the 10-race professional skiing competition in Japan.

Mennea fastest

SYDNEY, Australia, Feb 14, (AP): World record holder Pietro Mennea of Italy clocked 21.73 seconds today to record the fastest time in the 200-metre heats at the New South Wales state track and field championships.

Mennea, who was a gold medalist at the Moscow Olympics and who is training in Australia, had to contend with gusty winds.

Short record

BONN, Feb 14, (Reuter): Italy's Giorgio Lamberti set world best short course time of one minute 43.95 seconds for the men's 200 metres freestyle at an international swimming meeting today.

The previous world best time was set by West Germany's Michael Gross nine days ago when he clocked one minute 44.14 seconds in Paris.

Swiss wins

VALENCIA, Spain Feb 14, (AP): Erich Maechler of Switzerland yesterday won the seventh Camp de Morvedre cycling race, competing with 219 riders from six countries.

Mekonen wins

TOKYO, Feb 14, (AP): Abebe Mekonen of Ethiopia outpaced Tanzania's Juma Ikangaa in the final kilometre and won the Tokyo International marathon in 2 hours, 8 minutes and 33 seconds today.

Ikangaa, winner of the Tokyo International in 1984 and 1986, placed second with a time of 2:08:41. East German Joerg Peter was clocked at 2:08:47 to place third.

Crickets postponed

DHAKA, Bangladesh, Feb 14, (AP): Bangladesh today announced the postponement of the Asia Cup cricket tournament, scheduled to start on Feb 22.

The Bangladesh Cricket Control board said in a press release that the tournament would be played later this year since India had decided not to participate.

Squash singles

DENVER, Feb 14, (AP): Top-seeded Rodolfo Rodriguez of Mexico defeated John Sprenger of the United States 18-13, 15-3, 18-16 to highlight yesterday's action in the United States Squash Racquets Association national singles championship.